(19) **日本国特許庁(JP)**

(12) 公 開 特 許 公 報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開2004-71907 (P2004-71907A)

(43) 公開日 平成16年3月4日(2004.3.4)

(51) Int.C1. ⁷	F I		テーマコード(参考)
HO1L 21/66	HO1L 21/66	N	4M1O6
HO1L 21/20	HO1L 21/20		5FO52
HO1L 21/268	HO1L 21/268	\mathbf{T}	

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 8 OL (全 20 頁)

		——	
(21) 出願番号	特願2002-230495 (P2002-230495)	(71) 出願人	000005049
(22) 出願日	平成14年8月7日 (2002.8.7)		シャープ株式会社
			大阪府大阪市阿倍野区長池町22番22号
		(74) 代理人	100075557
			弁理士 西教 圭一郎
		(74) 代理人	100072235
			弁理士 杉山 毅至
		(74) 代理人	100101638
			弁理士 廣瀬 峰太郎
		(72) 発明者	久下 幸子
			大阪府大阪市阿倍野区長池町22番22号
			シャープ株式会社内
		(72) 発明者	山脇 千明
			大阪府大阪市阿倍野区長池町22番22号
			シャープ株式会社内
			最終頁に続く

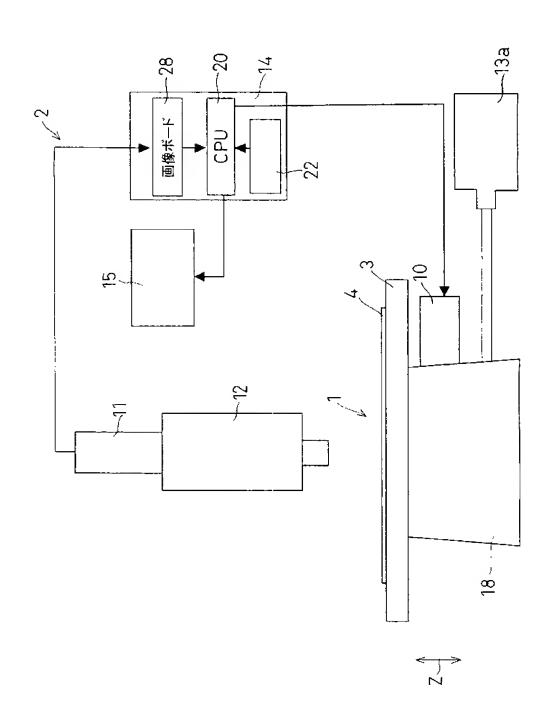
(54) 【発明の名称】結晶性膜の検査装置および検査方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】結晶性膜の結晶状態を正確にかつ簡単に検査することができる結晶性膜の検査装置および検査方法を提供する。

【解決手段】単に青色画像を濃度値だけで領域分離するのではなく、青色画像とともに得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。青色画像の濃度値は、たとえば結晶性膜1の濃度および白色照明による照度を含む撮像時の条件によって変化するが、この青色画像と同一の条件で得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値を用いて領域を分離するので、たとえば結晶性膜1の膜厚が変化するなど、撮像時の条件が変化しても、非晶質膜領域の画像領域と結晶膜領域の画像領域とを、正確に分離することができる。

【選択図】 図1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とが混在された結晶性膜に、青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射する照射手段と、

結晶性膜を撮像する撮像手段と、

照射手段および撮像手段を用いて撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する領域分離手段とを有することを特徴とする結晶性膜の検査装置。

【請求項2】

照射手段は、白色照明であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の結晶性膜の検査装置。

【請求項3】

撮像手段は光学顕微鏡を有することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の結晶性膜の検査装置。

【請求項4】

非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを有する結晶性膜に、青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射する第1の工程と、

第1の工程で照射された結晶性膜を撮像する第2の工程と、

撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する第3の工程とを有することを特徴とする結晶性膜の検査方法。

【請求項5】

前記第2の工程は、青色成分の光に関して合焦させて撮像することを特徴とする請求項4に記載の結晶性膜の検査方法。

【請求項6】

非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製する方法において、

請求項4または5に記載の結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率と、予め設定される非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率とを比較し、

この比較結果に基づいて、前記部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することを特徴とする結晶性膜の作製方法。

【請求項7】

前記結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊の最大径と、予め定められる非晶質塊の基準径とを比較し、この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することを特徴とする請求項6に記載の結晶性膜の作製方法。

【請求項8】

請求項4または5に記載の結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる膜材であって、

前記膜材の非晶質塊の最大径を少なくとも計測し得る非晶質塊の計測方法において、

前記検査方法によって得られる非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを分離検出した2値画像に対して、膨張処理または収縮処理を行うことを特徴とする非晶質塊の計測方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[00001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、結晶性膜の検査装置および検査方法に関し、たとえばアクティブマトリックス形の薄膜トランジスタ(TFT:Thin Film Transistor)などを製造する場合に、固相成長結晶化工程後に用いられる結晶性膜の検査装置および検査方法に関する。

[00002]

【従来の技術】

高解像度の要望が強い液晶表示素子およびイメージセンサーなどにおいては、駆動方式として、たとえばガラスなどの絶縁基板の一表面部に高性能な半導体素子を形成したアクティブマトリックス形の薄膜トランジスタ(TFT:Thin

30

20

10

50

40

20

30

40

50

Film Transistor)が用いられている。前記TFTには、薄膜状のシリコン半導体を用いるのが一般的である。薄膜状のシリコン半導体は、非晶質シリコンつまりアモルファスシリコンから成る非晶質シリコン半導体と、結晶性を有するシリコンから成る結晶性シリコン半導体との2つに大別される。

[00003]

非晶質シリコン半導体は、成膜温度が比較的低く、気相成長法によって比較的容易に製造することが可能であり、量産性に富むといった特徴を有するので、最も一般的に用いられている。しかし非晶質シリコン半導体は、結晶性シリコン半導体に比べて導電性などの物性が劣るので、高速特性を得るために結晶性シリコン半導体から成るTFTの製造技術の確立が強く求められている。

[0004]

特開平8-69968号公報には、結晶性シリコン半導体を形成する技術が開示されている。すなわち、基板の一表面部に、プラズマCVD(プラズマCVD:Chemical VaPor DePosition)法または減圧熱化学気相成長法などによって、アモルファスシリコン薄膜が形成される。このアモルファスシリコン薄膜に金属触媒を塗布し、固相成長結晶化工程を施した後、レーザアニール結晶化工程を経て、連続結晶粒界を有する結晶性シリコン半導体膜(以後、単に結晶膜と呼ぶ場合もある)が形成される。

[0005]

特開平11-204606号公報には、レーザアニール結晶化工程後、結晶膜に透過光を照射し、結晶膜の結晶状態を検査する技術が開示されている。この検査装置は、光源と、反射鏡と、集光レンズと、メソステージがよびメソ駆動機構と、光強度測定装置とを有する。光源から発せられた光を、反射鏡、集光レンズを介してメソステージに支持された基板の結晶膜に照射し、その透過強度を前記光強度測定装置でもって測定する。メソ駆動機構によってメソステージを移動駆動し、光源から発せられた光を、反射鏡、集光レンズを介して基板の結晶膜を透過させない光強度を、光強度測定装置で測定する。前記光強度に対する透過強度の比率に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶状態を判定するようになっている。

[0006]

特開平11-40637号公報には、基板の一表面部にアモルファスシリコン薄膜が形成された検査用基板を複数枚準備しておき、エキシマレーザアニール装置のエネルギー値を選択的に変化させ、各エネルギー値に対応する波長450mm付近の透過率を分光測定によって比較することによって、結晶膜の結晶状態を判定する技術が開示されている。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

[0008]

特開平11-204606号公報に記載の検査装置は、本来、レーザアニール結晶化工程後の結晶膜の結晶状態を検査するものであって、固相成長結晶化工程後の結晶性膜の結晶状態を検査するものではない。仮にこの検査装置を、固相成長結晶化工程後の結晶膜の結晶状態を検査する装置に適用した場合、同一の生産ロットで結晶性膜の膜厚が不所望に変化すると、結晶性膜の結晶状態すなわち結晶成長具合は、膜厚に大きく左右されて正確に

20

40

50

判定することができなくなる。すなわちこの従来技術の検査装置においては、結晶性膜の透過強度の変化は、膜厚の変化によるものか、結晶性膜の結晶成長具合の違いに起因するものか判断することができないという問題がある。

[0009]

特開平11-40687号公報に記載の技術の装置も、レーザアニール結晶化工程後の結晶膜の結晶状態を検査するものである。前記装置を、固相成長結晶化工程後の結晶状態を検査する装置に仮に適用した場合にも、同一の生産ロットで結晶性膜の膜厚が不所望に変化すると、結晶性膜の結晶状態は、膜厚に大きく左右されて正確に判定することができなくなる。され故、結晶性膜の結晶状態を正確に判定するためには、結晶性膜の膜厚を測定する測定装置などが別途必要になり、設備費用が高くつくなどの問題がある。

[0010]

したがって本発明の目的は、結晶性膜の結晶状態を正確にかつ簡単に検査することができるとともに、実用性の高い結晶性膜の検査装置および検査方法を提供することである。

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明は、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とが混在された結晶性膜に、青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射する照射手段と、

結晶性膜を撮像する撮像手段と、

照射手段および撮像手段を用いて撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する領域分離手段とを有することを特徴とする結晶性膜の検査装置である。

[0012]

本発明に従えば、照射手段によって、結晶性膜に青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射したすえで、この結晶性膜を撮像手段を用いて撮像する。領域分離手段は、これら照射手段および撮像手段を用いて撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で2つの領域に分離する。結晶性膜を撮像して得られる青色画像は、非晶質膜領域の画像領域と結晶膜領域の画像領域とで濃度値が異なる。

[0013]

したがって結晶性膜にあける非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域との混在比率を掌握することができる。しかも単に青色画像を濃度値だけで領域分離するのではなく、青色画像とともに得られる前記赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。青色画像の濃度値は、たとえば結晶性膜の濃度あよび照射手段による照度を含む撮像時の条件によって変化するが、この青色画像と同一の条件で得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値を用いて領域を分離するので、たとえば結晶性膜の膜厚が変化するなど、撮像時の条件が変化しても、非晶質膜領域の画像領域と、結晶膜領域の画像領域とを、正確に分離することができる。したがって、結晶性膜の膜厚など撮像時の条件を得る装置を必要とすることなく、領域分離が可能である。

[0014]

また本発明は、照射手段は、白色照明であることを特徴とする。

本発明に従えば、少なくとも青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射することができる照射手段を、白色照明によって簡単に実現することができる。

[0015]

また本発明は、撮像手段は光学顕微鏡を有することを特徴とする。

本発明に従えば、撮像手段は光学顕微鏡を有するので、光学顕微鏡によって高い空間分解能を実現することができ、結晶性膜を所望の拡大倍率で詳細に検査することが可能となる

[0016]

また本発明は、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを有する結晶性膜に、青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射する第1の工程と、

第1の工程で照射された結晶性膜を撮像する第2の工程と、

20

30

40

50

撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する第3の工程とを有することを特徴とする結晶性膜の検査方法である。

[0017]

[0018]

また本発明は、前記第2の工程は、青色成分の光に関して合焦させて撮像することを特徴とする。

[0019]

本発明に従えば、第2の工程は、青色成分の光に関して合焦させて撮像することによって、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに明確にかつ容易に分離することが可能になる。したがって、結晶性膜を非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに明確に分離することが可能となる。

[0020]

また本発明は、非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製する方法において、

前記結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率と、予め設定される非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率とを比較し、

この比較結果に基づいて、前記部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することを特徴とする結晶性膜の作製方法である。

[0021]

本発明に従えば、非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製し、検査によって得られる非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率と、予め設定される非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率とを比較する。この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することができる。これによって非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率を所望の比率にした結晶性膜を作製することが可能になる。

[0022]

また本発明は、前記結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊の最大径と、予め定められる非晶質塊の基準径とを比較し、この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することを特徴とする。

[0023]

本発明に従えば、非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製し、検査によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊の最大径と、予め定められる非晶質塊の基準径とを比較する。この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することができる。これによって膜材の非晶質塊を所望の最大径未満にした結晶性膜を作製することが可能となる。

[0024]

また本発明は、前記結晶性膜の検査方法によって得られる膜材であって、

20

30

40

50

前記膜材の非晶質塊の最大径を少なくとも計測し得る非晶質塊の計測方法において、前記検査方法によって得られる非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを分離検出した2値画像に対して、膨張処理または収縮処理を行うことを特徴とする非晶質塊の計測方法である。

[0025]

本発明に従えば、結晶性膜の検査方法によって、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを分離検出した2値画像を得た後、この2値画像に対して膨張処理または収縮処理を行い、膜材の非晶質塊の最大径を計測することができる。したがって不所望の大きさの非晶質塊を、確実に計測することができ、それ故、たとえば電子移動度不良および画素欠陥などの原因となる非晶質膜領域を、未然に検出することが可能となる。

[0026]

本発明において、用語「結晶性膜」は、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とが混在している状態の膜を意味する。

[0027]

【発明の実施の形態】

図1は、本発明の実施形態に係る結晶性膜1の検査装置2の構成を示す模式図であり、図2は、基板4に形成された結晶性膜1と検査装置2との関係を部分的に示す斜視図である。本実施形態は、たとえばアクティブマトリックス形の薄膜トランジスタなどを製造する場合に、固相成長結晶化工程後に得られる結晶性膜を検査する検査装置に、本発明の検査装置を適用した場合の一例を示す。以下の説明は、結晶性膜1の検査方法および結晶性膜1の作製方法についての説明をも含む。非晶質シリコン半導体膜(以後、単に非晶質膜と呼ぶ場合がある)を作製した後、この非晶質膜を、固相成長結晶化工程によって部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜1を作製するものとする。

[0028]

図3は、基板4を厚み方向に拡大して示す断面図であって、基板4の一表面部に、結晶性膜を形成した後、結晶膜を形成する工程を段階的に示す概略説明図である。図3(ん)に示すれる基板4は、電気絶縁性材料であるたとえばがラスなどから成る厚み方向から見てたとえば長方形の平板状基材5の表面部5んに、非晶質膜である非晶質シリコン層6が形成されて構成される。平板状基材5の板厚は、たとえば約0.7mmに形成されている。非晶質シリコン層6は、たとえばプラズマCVD(CVD:CLemical VaPo ト DePosition)法またはLPCVD(LPCVD:Low Pressure СLemical VaPor DePosition)法によって形成され、たとえば約1000オングストローム(Å)以上1500 & 以下程度の膜厚を有する。

[0029]

次に図8(6)に示すように、非晶質シリコン層6の一表面部6のに、たとえば酸化液が塗布され、この酸化液の働きによって酸化膜7が形成される。酸化膜7の一表面部7のに図示すように、なって酸化膜7が形成される。酸化膜7の一表面部7のに、金属触媒を塗布するためのたとえば回転塗布装置38(図14あよび図16参照、単に塗布装置38ともいうとはないでは、固相成長結晶化工程において、非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が始まる温度、たとえば約550℃以上でもって程度進行した固相成長結晶化が進行する。非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が進行する。非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が進行する。非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が進行する。非晶質シリコン層6によって検査する。その後、工きシマレーがアニール装置を用いて、非晶質シリコン層6に対しレーが光Rのを照射する。その結果、非晶質シリコン層6は一度溶融し、治理を経て多結晶化する。つまり基板4の一表面部に結晶膜が形成される。

[0030]

固相成長結晶化工程直後に結晶性膜1を検査する検査装置2は、メンステージ3と、メンステージ駆動機構9と、 ヹ軸駆動用モータ10と、 撮像手段としてのカラーCCDカメラ11(CCD: Charge Coupled Device) および光学顕微鏡12と、 照射手段としての白色照明13と、領域分離手段としての制御装置14と、ディスプレ

20

30

40

50

イ15と、キーボード16およびマウス17(図4参照)とを有する。メンステージ8は、基板4を吸着支持するステージであって、略長方形状のステージ3の長手方向に沿った ×方向と、吸着支持された基板4の厚み方向および×方向に直交するメ方向とに移動可能 に構成されている。この×ソステージ3は、ベースフレーム18に対し×およびソ方向に 移動可能に支持されている。

[0031]

[0032]

カラー C C D カメラ 1 1 は、赤(R)、緑(G)、青(B)色から成るRGB画像19で撮像対象を撮像可能に構成されている。このカラー C C D カメラ 1 1 は、基板4の厚み方向一方に支持され、このカラー C C D カメラ 1 1 の 撮像部に、光学顕微鏡12が取付けられている。したがってカラー C C D カメラ 1 1 は、基板4に形成された結晶性膜1を光学顕微鏡12を介して撮像可能に配置して設けられている。光学顕微鏡12は対物レンズ12 な を 有し、このカラー C C D カメラ 1 1 は、光学顕微鏡12を 介して たとえば約128 μ m × 1 2 8 μ m の矩形状の領域を撮像可能に構成されている。このように撮像手段は、カラー C C D カメラ 1 1 と、空間分解能の高い光学顕微鏡12とを 有するので、結晶性膜1 を 所望の拡大倍率でもって詳細に検査することが可能となる。

[0033]

白色照明18はたとえばハロゲンランプから成る。この白色照明18は、ベースフレーム18に一体に設けられ、かつ、カラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12の略光軸方向に沿って、基板4の厚み方向他方に配設つまり配置して設けられている。この白色照明18は、たとえば約400mm以上約700mm以下の波長成分を有する白色光を、照射対象に照射可能に構成されている。照射対象である基板4の結晶性膜1に、基板4の厚み方向一方に向けて前記白色光を照射して透過させたすえで、この透過光をカラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12を用いて撮像するように構成されている。また白色照明13には、照射状態と非照射状態とを手動切替するための切替スイッチ13のと、照度を設定するための図示外のボリュームが付設されている。

[0034]

図4は、検査装置2の制御系のプロック図である。制御装置14は、中央演算処理装置20(CPU: Central Processing Unit)とロム21(ROM: ReadOnly Memory)とラム22(RAM: Random Access Memory)とから成るマイクロコンピュータと、バス23と、入出カインタフェース24と、駆動回路25、26、27とを有する。中央演算処理装置20とロム21とラム22とは、バス23を介して入出カインタフェース24に電気的に接続されている。制御装置14の内部において、入出カインタフェース24には画像ボード28が電気的に接続されている。入出カインタフェース24には、入力手段であるキーボード16およびマウス17がそれぞれ電気的に接続されている。

[0035]

入出カインタフェース24には、駆動回路25、26、27を介して××ステージ駆動機構 9、 区軸駆動用モータ10、ディスプレイ15がせれぞれ電気的に接続されている。口ム21には、撮像されたRGB画像19(図5の参照)を非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに分離して検出する後述の検出プログラムが格納されている。検出プログラムは中央演算処理装置20にて実行される。ラム22には、非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30

20

30

40

50

との混在比率が予め設定されて記録されている。ラム22には、後述する非晶質塊31の最大径Daの基準径が予め定められて記録されている。

[0036]

またロム21には調整プログラムが格納されている。調整プログラムは、検出プログラムによって得られる非晶質膜領域29の画像領域および結晶膜領域30の画像領域の混在比率と、予め設定された混在比率とを比較するとともに、検査によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊31の最大径ともいう)と、前記基準径とを比較する機能を有し、これら比較結果に基づいて、固相成長結晶化工程における条件、たとえば非晶質膜6に熱エネルギーを付与するための図示外の加熱炉の焼成温度およびその焼成時間などを調整するようになっている。画像ボード28は図示外のビデオラムを備え、このビデオラムは、カラーCCDカメラ11で撮像されたRGB画像19をRGB信号として書換え可能に記録する機能を有する。撮像画像は、画像ボード28、入出カインタフェース24、駆動回路27を介してディスプレイ15に常時出力される。

[0037]

図5は、撮像された画像の利用方法を段階的に示す説明図である。図6は、不良品と判定された画像領域の模式図であって、図6(点)は非晶質膜領域29の画像領域の比率が高過ぎる場合、図6(点)は非晶質膜域29の画像領域の比率が高過ぎる場合、図6(点)は非晶質膜域29の画像領域の比率が高過ぎる場合、図6(こま大経Dのともいう)が前記基準径以上の場合の青色画像19Bの模式図である。図7は、非晶質膜および結晶膜の波長に対する分光特性を示す図表であり、図9は、カラーCCDDカメラ11の波長に対する分光特性を示す図表であり、図9は、各色成分における非晶質膜6および結晶膜の濃度値の関係を示す図表である。ここで青色画像19Bとは、青色の波長成分の光学像を光電変換して得られた画像である。緑色画像19Gとは、緑色の波長成分の光学像を光電変換して得られた画像である。赤色画像19Rとは、赤色の波長成分の光学像を光電変換して得られた画像まる。また非晶質塊31の最大径Dのとは、非晶質塊31の長手方向に直交する直径方向の寸法のうち、最大直径寸法と同義である。

[0038]

非晶質膜6と結晶膜とは、波長に対する透過特性が異なる。上述したように、たとえば約400mm以上700mm以下の波長成分を有する白色光を、基板4全体に向けて照射して透過させ、透過光をカラーCCDカメラ11を用いて撮像すると、カラーCCDカメラ11が受光する透過光の光量は、基板4における結晶化状態によって異なる。カラーCCDカメラ11の撮像領域内に、非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とが混在している場合には、撮像画像には透過率すなわち濃度値の違いで反映される。白色光のうち、約400mm以上500mm以下付近部において、結晶膜の光の透過率と非晶質膜6の光の透過率との間に大きな差がある。したがって赤、緑、青色画像19R、19G、19Bのうち、青色画像19Bにおいて、非晶質膜領域29の濃度値は低く、結晶膜領域30の濃度値はほの。このような特性を用いて、青色画像19Bを非晶質膜領域29の画像領域とに分離して検出する。

[0039]

図7に示すように、波長約400mm以上500mm以下付近部における非晶質膜6の透過率は、波長約600mm以上700mm以下付近部における非晶質膜6の透過率よりも低く、波長約400mm以上500mm以下付近部における結晶膜の透過率より高い。したがって約400mm以上700mm以下付近部における波長構成と、約600mm以上700mm以下付近部における波長構成と、約600mm以上700mm以下付近部における波長構成とが、同じ程度であり、かつ、カラーCCDカメラ11の受光感度がこれらの波長領域において同じ程度の場合、赤色画像19Rにおける平均濃度値は、青色画像19Rにおける結晶膜の濃度値と、非晶質膜6の濃度値との中間値に略等しくなる。

[0040]

また約600mm以上700mm以下付近部において、結晶膜の透過率と非晶質膜の透過

率との差は小さい。つまり赤色画像19Rにおいては、非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とのコントラスト差は小さくなる。ここで図7~図9に示すように、波長約400mm以上500mm以下付近部において、その結晶膜の濃度値と青色画像19Bの感度比とを積分した積分値32は、非晶質膜6の濃度値と青色画像19Bの感度比とを積分した積分値33よりも格段に大きくなる。

[0041]

波長約500mm以上600mm以下付近部において、その結晶膜の濃度値と緑色画像19Gの感度比とを積分した積分値34は、非晶質膜6の濃度値と緑色画像19Gの感度比とを積分した積分値35よりもやや大きくなる。波長約600mm以上700mm以下付近部において、その結晶膜の濃度値と赤色画像19Rの感度比とを積分した積分値36は、非晶質膜6の濃度値と赤色画像19Rの感度比とを積分した積分値37よりも若干大きくなる。この赤色画像19Rの平均濃度値を、青色画像19Bにおける非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30との分離、検出用の濃度しきい値として用いている。

[0042]

せれ故、透過率は、照明照度が変動しても変化しないことから、透過照明の波長成分が変動しない場合、照明照度の変動に影響されることなく濃度しきい値を設定することができる。この結果を用いて、赤色画像19R全体の平均濃度値を濃度しきい値として、青色画像19Bを2値化することによって、結晶膜領域30の画像領域と非晶質膜領域29の画像領域とを分離する。このとき前記濃度しきい値より小さい濃度値の領域を非晶質膜領域29の画像領域、前記濃度しきい値より大きい濃度値の領域を結晶膜領域30の画像領域と9の画像領域を、単に非晶質膜領域29と呼ぶ場合もある。結晶膜領域30の画像領域を、単に結晶膜領域30と呼ぶ場合もある。

[0043]

図10は、固相成長結晶化工程によって得られる結晶性膜1を検査する工程を示すフローチャートである。ここでSi(i=1、2、3、)はステップを示す。評価基板4を×メステージ3に吸着支持し、白色照明13の切替スイッチ13のを、非照射状態から照射状態に手動切替えしたすえで、ステップ1においてこの検査装置2の図示外の主電源を投入し、ステップ2で検査装置2の初期設定を行す。具体的に初期設定項目としては、白色照明13の照明照度と、評価基板4の××ステージ駆動機構9による検査位置などがある

[0044]

カラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12によって撮像されたRGB画像19は、カラーCCDカメラ11からRGB信号として画像ボード28に送られ、さらに入出カインタフェース24および駆動回路27を介してディスプレイ15に常時出力される。ディスプレイ15に出力された透過画像を目視確認しつつ、前記初期設定項目である白色照明13の照度を設定し、××ステージ3を、××ステージ駆動機構9によって×方向および×方向に移動して初期設定項目である検査位置を設定する。

[0045]

その後ステップ3に移行して、結晶膜領域30と非晶質膜領域29とのコントラスト差が大きくなるように最終的な評価画像として用いる青色画像19Bでフォーカシング調整する。ところで、RGB画像19をカラーCCDカメラ11あよび光学顕微鏡12によって3つの赤、青、緑色成分の光に関してされずれ合焦させることが望ましいが、光学顕微鏡12の拡大倍率などによって3つの赤、青、緑色成分の光に関して合焦することは、各色成分の収差に起因して被写界深度が一致しないことから技術的に難しい。本検査装置2および結晶性膜1の検査方法によれば、非晶質膜領域29および結晶膜領域30を分離する濃度値情報は、青色画像19Bで行うため、少なくとも青色成分の光に関して合焦させればよい。ここで合焦とは、光学顕微鏡12の焦点が、撮像対象の結晶性膜1の表面に一致する状態をいう。さらに焦点は、青色成分の光が焦点位置にある状態をいう。

[0046]

50

10

20

30

40

20

30

40

50

ステップ4においては、中央演算処理装置20からバス23、入出カインタフェース24、駆動回路26を介して区軸駆動用モータ10へ送られる命令によって、メソステージ3を矢符ヱにて示す基板4の厚み方向に移動駆動させつつ、結晶性膜1の画像を複数枚撮像する。この複数枚撮像された画像は、前記ビデオラムに書換え可能に記録される。すると前記検出プログラムは、複数枚の撮像画像のうちから、青色成分において濃度値の分散値の高い画像を選出する。

[0047]

フォーカスがずれる程、画像のコントラストは小さくなり、フォーカスがあっているとき、画像のコントラストは高くなる。換言すれば、画像のコントラストが高い、すなわち画像内の濃度値のばらつきが最も顕著な画像を、合焦画像とすることができる。したがって画像内の濃度値の分散値を算出、比較し、最も分散値の大きい画像すなわち最もコントラストの高い画像を合焦画像とする。その後、検出プログラムによって、RGB画像19を青色画像19Bと赤色画像19Rと緑色画像19Gとに分離する。

[0048]

次にステップ5に移行し、赤色画像19R全体の平均濃度値を、検出プログラムによって算出する。ステップ6において、前記平均濃度値を濃度しまい値として青色画像19Bを、2値化することによって非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに分離する。このとま濃度しまい値より小さい濃度値の領域を、非晶質膜領域29として検出し、前記濃度しまい値より大きい濃度値の領域を、結晶膜領域30として検出することができる。その後ステップ7において、非晶質塊31の短径Daを算出するとともに、非晶質膜領域29の面積を算出し、ステップ8において終了する。

[0049]

図11は、ロム21に格納された前記調整プログラムのフローチャートであって、結晶性膜1の検査によって得られる非晶質膜6の混在比率および非晶質塊31の短径Dの足をDの足をDの混在比率および非晶質塊31の基準径とを比較するフローチャートである。ここで8(((=10、11、12、)はステップを示す。図12は、一つ、長結晶化工程と、結晶性膜1の検査工程との関係を示すプロック図である。ステップ10においてこのプログラムをスタートさせ、ステップ11において、操作者によって初期値A1、A2、8を設定する。初期値A1は、青色画像19B全体のうち非晶質膜領域29の混在比率の最大値である。ただし、初期値A1は初期値A2よりも小さく設定される。また初期値8は、非晶質塊31の基準径である。これら初期値A1、A2、8はラム22に記録される。

[0050]

次にステップ12に移行して、上述した結晶性膜1の検査によって得られる非晶質膜領域29の混在比率が、図6(ん)に示すように初期値A1%以下と判定されると、ステップ14に移行する。前記非晶質膜領域29の混在比率が、図6(b)に示すように初期値A2%以上と判定されると、ステップ14に移行する。ステップ13において、上述した結晶性膜1の検査によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊31の最大径Dのが、図6(c)に示すように初期値8以上であると判定されると、ステップ14に移行する。

[0051]

ステップ14においては、検査対象の結晶性膜1は、不良品であると判定されてディスプレイ15に出力される。ステップ12において非晶質膜領域29の混在比率が、図5(c)に示すように、初期値A1%より大きく初期値A2%より小さいと判定され、ステップ13において膜材の非晶質塊31の最大径DΦが初期値8未満であると判定されると、ステップ15に出力される。次にステップ16にて、次の検査対象の結晶性膜1があれば、ステップ17に移行する。ステップ17において初期値A1、A2、8を変更する場合には、ステップ11に戻る。初期値A1、A2、8を変更しない場合には、ステップ12に戻る。ステップ16で次に検査対象がない場合には、ステップ18に移行して終了する。

20

30

40

50

[0052]

以上のように、固相成長結晶化工程直後に、検査装置 2 によって検査対象の結晶性膜 1 は、良品であるか不良品であるかを判定することによって、結晶性膜 1 の成長不良などの不良検出を迅速にかつ確実に行うことができる。また図 1 2 に示すように、非晶質膜 2 9 の混在比率と初期値 A 1 、 A 2 とを比較し、非晶質塊 3 1 の最大径 D のと基準径 δ とを比較し、これら比較結果の情報を固相成長結晶化工程にフィードバックすることによって、固相成長結晶化工程にあける、非晶質膜 6 を部分的に結晶化するための条件、たとえば加熱炉の焼成温度 あよびその焼成時間などを調整することができる。これによって、非晶質膜領域 2 9 あよび結晶膜領域 3 0 の混在比率を所望の比率にした結晶性膜 1 を作製することが可能になる。また、膜材の非晶質塊 3 1 を基準径 δ 未満の径にした結晶性膜 1 を作製することが可能になる。

[0053]

[0054]

基準径となる基板4における膜材の非晶質塊31の粒径は、ラム22に記憶する。予め設定される基板4における非晶質膜領域29および結晶膜領域30の混在比率も、ラム22に記憶する。基準となる基板4における触媒堆積層8の濃度と、固相成長結晶化工程後の非晶質塊31の粒径、混在比率との関係も、ラム22に記憶しておく。したがって、検査対象となる基板4の非晶質塊31の粒径と、ラム22に記憶された基準径となる非晶質塊31の粒径とを比較するとともに、検査対象となる基板4の混在比率と、ラム22に記憶された混在比率とを比較することによって、塗布装置38によって形成される触媒堆積層8の濃度の増減値を調整することができる。

[0055]

[0056]

したがって非晶質膜領域29の短径Dのが、2Kμm以上である場合には、前記非晶質膜領域29は、エキシマレーザアニールエ程後においても非晶質膜領域29の状態のまま結晶に成長にしない部分が最終的に残留する。このような非晶質膜領域29の残留部分は、たとえば液晶パネルにおいて電子移動度不良となり、画素欠陥となるので、エキシマレーザアニールエ程後に結晶化しない非晶質膜領域29つまり前記短径Dのが2Kμm以上で

20

30

40

50

ある非晶質膜領域29を、固相成長結晶化工程直後に検出する必要がある。そこで非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに分離した2値画像から、短径Dみが2Kμm以上の非晶質膜領域29を検出する。

[0057]

前記短径Dのが2Kルm以上の非晶質膜領域29は、2値画像に対して、画像処理である膨張処理または収縮処理を行うことによって検出することが可能である。収縮処理とは、処理対象である非晶質膜領域29の図形成分の境界にある画素の値を、背景成分である結晶膜領域30の画素の値に変換して1画素分縮めることをいう。膨張処理は、図形成分を逆に1画素分膨らませることをいう。具体的には、2値画像において非晶質膜領域29の濃度値が、結晶膜領域30の濃度値より小さい場合には、膨張処理を行う。2値画像において非晶質膜領域29の濃度値が、結晶膜領域30の濃度値より大きい場合には、収縮処理を行う。

[0058]

このような膨張および収縮処理を、膨張および収縮サイズがKμmになるまで繰返す。たとえば膨張処理または収縮処理のフィルタサイズを8近傍とし、撮像画像の分解能が、K/5μmのとき、処理を5回繰返す。またはフィルタサイズがKμmとなるように、半径がKμmの円形のフィルタを作成し、膨張または収縮処理を1回行う。このような膨張処理または収縮処理によって、短径Dαが2Kμm以下の非晶質膜領域29は消失し、短径Dαが2Kμmより大きい非晶質膜領域29のみ残る。したがって、前記電子移動度不良および画素欠陥の原因となる非晶質膜領域29を、エキシマレーザアニールエ程前に検出することができる。

[0059]

図14は、検査装置2と、SPC装置39と、塗布装置38との関係を示すプロック図である。上述した工程管理の方法についてさらに詳細に述べると、図14に示すように、制御部40は、検査装置2と、SPC装置39および塗布装置38とに独立して設けられている。この制御部40は、検査装置2からのフィードバック精報に基づいて、SPC装置39および塗布装置38に対して、フィードバック制御を行う。

[0060]

前記フィードバック情報としては、たとえば、撮像画像の基板4における×および×方向位置、非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30との混在比率、非晶質塊31の粒径、非晶質膜領域29の形状(ここでの形状とは、非晶質魂31の短径が2Kより大きいか小さいかを判断するための形状と同義である。)などがあり、このような情報を、検査装置2から制御部40に送る。制御部40は、送られた前記情報に基づいて、SPC装置39および塗布装置38に対して、それぞれ運転条件の指令を送る。

[0061]

具体的には、予め取得しておいたSPC装置39の焼成温度と混在比率との関係、予め取得しておいた触媒堆積層8の濃度と混在比率との関係、予め取得しておいた触媒堆積層8の濃度と非晶質塊31の粒径との関係と、前記フィードバック情報とから、基板4における×およびン方向位置に関して、必要な触媒堆積層8の濃度と、SPC装置39の焼成温度が最適値に対してどの程度過不足があったかを判定する。

[0062]

前記制御部40において判定した結果、SPC装置39の加熱炉の炉内温度すなわち焼成温度が、一定量高いまたは低いと判定された場合、SPC装置39に対して炉内温度を、前記一定量だけ下げるまたは上げる指令を送ることによって、次の基板4から最適状態で生産することが可能となる。また制御部40において判定した結果、触媒堆積層8の濃度が、一定量高いまたは低いと判定された場合には、塗布装置38に対して塗布濃度の増減値を指令することによって、次の基板4から最適状態で生産することが可能となる。

[0063]

また制御部40において判定した結果、SPC装置39の炉内温度調整および塗布装置38に関する濃度調整が、基板4の×および×方向の位置に応じて必要な場合には、SPC

20

30

40

50

装置39および塗布装置38に対して、基板4の×および×方向の位置と調整量とをされ ざれ指令することによって、次の基板4から最適状態で生産することが可能となる。

[0064]

以上説明した結晶性膜1の検査装置2によれば、白色照明13によって、結晶性膜1に青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射したうえで、この結晶性膜1をカラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12を用いて撮像する。制御装置14は、白色照明13とカラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12とを用いて撮像された赤色画像19Rの平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像19Bを、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに分離する。

[0065]

したがって結晶性膜1における非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30との混在比率を掌握することができる。しかも単に青色画像19Bを濃度値だけで領域分離するのではなく、青色画像19Bとともに得られる赤色画像19Rの平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。青色画像19Bの濃度値は、たとえば結晶性膜1の濃度および白色照明13による照度を含む撮像時の条件によって変化するが、この青色画像19Bと同一の条件で得られる赤色画像19Rの平均濃度値を用いて領域を分離するので、たとえば結晶性膜1の膜厚が変化するなど、撮像時の条件が変化しても、非晶質膜領域29の画像領域と、結晶膜領域30の画像領域とを、正確に分離することができる。したがって、結晶性膜1の膜厚など撮像時の条件を得る装置を必要とすることができる。したがって、結晶性膜1の原厚など撮を検査装置2あよび検査方法によれば、結晶性膜1の結晶状態を正確にかつ簡単に検査することができるとともに、実用性を高くすることができる。

[0066]

また青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を、結晶性膜1に照射することができる照射手段は、白色照明13によって簡単に実現することができる。撮像手段は、カラーCCDカメラ11および光学顕微鏡12を有するので、光学顕微鏡12によって高い空間分解能を実現することができ、結晶性膜1を所望の拡大倍率で詳細に検査することが可能となる。また本検査方法において、青色成分の光に関して合焦させて撮像することが可能となる。また19Bを、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに明確にかつ容易に分離することが可能になる。したがって、結晶性膜1を非晶質膜領域29と結晶膜領域30とに明確に分離することが可能となる。

[0067]

本発明の実施の他の形態として、非晶質膜領域の混在比率と予め設定される非晶質膜領域の初期値とを比較し、この比較結果だけに基づいて、検査対象の結晶性膜は、良品であるか不良品であるかを判定するとともに、固相成長結晶化工程における前記条件、たとえば加熱炉の焼成温度およびその焼成時間などを調整するようにする場合もあり得る。この場合には、膜材の非晶質塊の最大径と、基準径とを比較する必要がなくなるので、調整プログラム自体が簡単化し、結晶性膜の成長不良などの不良検出を一層迅速化することができる。

[0068]

図15は、検査装置288PC装置39Aと塗布装置38Aとの関係を示すプロック図であり、図16は、検査装置2A88PC装置39と塗布装置38との関係を示すプロック図である。ただし前記実施形態と同一の部材には同一の符号を付し、その詳細な説明は省略する。前記実施形態においては、制御部40は、検査装置2と、SPC装置39および塗布装置38とに独立して設けられているが、図15に示す形態においては、制御部40AはSPC装置39Aに設けられ、制御部40Bは塗布装置38Aに設けられている。制御部40Aは、SPC装置39Aの焼成温度が最適値に対してどの程度過不足があったかを判定し、制御部40Bは、触媒堆積層8の濃度が最適値に対してどの程度過不足があったかを判定することができる。また図16に示すように、制御部40Cを、検査装置2Aに一体に設けることも可能である。

[0069]

20

30

40

50

検査対象の結晶性膜を撮像する際、メンステージを支方向に移動駆動させずに、光学顕微鏡およびカラーCCDカメラを移動駆動させる構造にしてもよい。さらにメンステージを移動駆動させるとともに光学顕微鏡およびカラーCCDカメラを移動駆動させるようにすることも可能である。本発明の検査方法は、生産される全基板の結晶性膜の検査つまり全数検査であってもよく、全ての生産ロット単位内での結晶性膜の抜取り検査であってもよい。

[0070]

本発明の検査装置および検査方法は、必ずしもアクティブマトリックス形の薄膜トランジスタを製造する場合のみに適用されるものではない。本実施形態においては、前記混在比率、非晶質塊の最大径の基準径などを記録する手段としてラムを適用したが、ハードディスクなど他の記録手段を適用することも可能である。白色照明は、必ずしもハロゲンランプから成るものに限定されるものではない。その他、前記実施形態に、特許請求の範囲を逸脱しない範囲において種々の部分的変更を行う場合もある。

- [0071]
- 【発明の効果】

以上のように本発明によれば、領域分離手段は、照射手段および撮像手段を用いて撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する。したがって結晶性膜にあける非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域との混在比く青色画像とともに得られる前記赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。を書きの平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。条件によって変化するが、この青色画像と同一の条件で得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値を引いて、撮像時の条件によって変化するが、この青色画像と同一の条件で得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値を用いて領域を分離するので、たとえば結晶性膜の膜厚が変化するなど、撮像時の条件が変化しても、非晶質膜領域の画像領域と、結晶膜領域の画像領域とを、正確に分離することなく、領域分離が可能である。

[0072]

また本発明によれば、少なくとも青色成分および赤色成分を含む光を照射することができる照射手段を、白色照明によって簡単に実現することができる。

[0073]

また本発明によれば、光学顕微鏡によって高い空間分解能を実現することができ、結晶性膜を所望の拡大倍率で詳細に検査することが可能となる。

[0074]

また本発明によれば、第1の工程において、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを有する結晶性膜に、青色成分を含む光を照射し、第2の工程において、第1の工程を照射された赤色画像のする。第3の工程において、撮像された赤色画像の平均濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに分離する。一方色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜の離する。一方色画像を濃度値だけで領域を分離するのではなく、青色画像とともに得られる前記赤色画像の平均濃度値に基づいて、領域を分離する。一方ととれば結晶性膜の関系を開発による照度を含む撮像時の条件によって変化するが、この青色画像と別別を表でで得られる赤色画像の平均濃度値を用いて領域を分離するので、たとえば結晶性膜の関係が変化するなど、撮像時の条件が変化しても、非晶質膜領域の画像領域と、結晶性膜の関係の条件を得る装置を必要とすることなく、領域分離が可能である。

[0075]

また本発明によれば、第2の工程は、青色成分の光に関して合焦させて撮像することによって、青色画像を、その濃度値で非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに明確にかつ容易に分離することが可能になる。したがって、結晶性膜を非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とに明確に分離することが可能となる。

[0076]

また本発明によれば、非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製し、検査によって得られる非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率とを比較する。この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することができる。これによって非晶質膜領域および結晶膜領域の混在比率を所望の比率にした結晶性膜を作製することが可能になる。

[0077]

また本発明によれば、非晶質膜を作製した後、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化させて結晶性膜を作製し、検査によって得られる膜材の非晶質塊の最大径と、予め定められる非晶質塊の基準径とを比較する。この比較結果に基づいて、非晶質膜を部分的に結晶化するための条件を調整することができる。これによって膜材の非晶質塊を所望の最大径未満にした結晶性膜を作製することが可能となる。

[0078]

また本発明によれば、結晶性膜の検査方法によって、非晶質膜領域と結晶膜領域とを分離検出した2値画像を得た後、この2値画像に対して膨張処理または収縮処理を行い、膜材の非晶質塊の最大径を計測することができる。したがって不所望の大きさの非晶質塊を、確実に計測することができ、それ故、たとえば電子移動度不良および画素欠陥などの原因となる非晶質膜領域を、未然に検出することが可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】本発明の実施形態に係る結晶性膜1の検査装置2の構成を示す模式図である。
- 【図2】基板4に形成された結晶性膜1と検査装置2との関係を部分的に示す斜視図である。
- 【図3】基板4の一表面部に、結晶膜を形成する工程を段階的に示す概略説明図である。
- 【図4】検査装置2の制御系のプロック図である。
- 【図5】撮像された画像の利用方法を段階的に示す説明図である。
- 【図6】不良品と判定された画像領域の模式図であって、図6(α)は非晶質膜領域29の画像領域の比率が低過ぎる場合、図6(b)は非晶質膜領域29の画像領域の比率が高過ぎる場合、図6(c)は非晶質塊31の最大径D αが基準径以上の場合の青色画像19 Bの模式図である。
- 【図7】非晶質膜および結晶膜の波長に対する透過特性を示す図表である。
- 【図8】カラーCCDカメラ11の波長に対する分光特性を示す図表である。
- 【図9】各色成分における非晶質膜および結晶膜の濃度値の関係を示す図表である。
- 【図10】固相成長結晶化工程によって得られる結晶性膜1を検査する工程を示すフローチャートである。
- 【図11】結晶性膜1の検査によって得られる非晶質膜の混在比率および非晶質塊31の短径Daと、予め設定される非晶質膜の混在比率および非晶質塊31の基準径とを比較するフローチャートである。
- 【図12】固相成長結晶化工程と、結晶性膜1の検査工程との関係を示すプロック図である。
- 【図13】非晶質膜が結晶膜に成長する過程を説明する説明図である。
- 【図14】検査装置2とSPC装置39と塗布装置38との関係を示すプロック図である
- 【図15】検査装置2とSPC装置39Aと塗布装置38Aとの関係を示すプロック図である。
- 【図16】検査装置2AVSPC装置39と塗布装置38との関係を示すプロック図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1 結晶性膜
- 2 検査装置

20

10

30

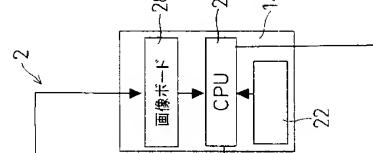
U

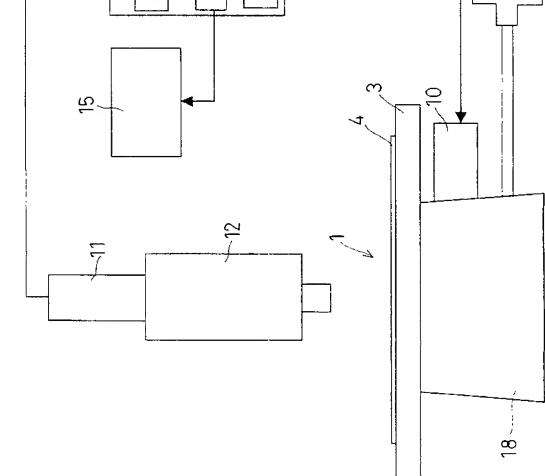
40

- 6 非晶質シリコン層
- 1 1 カラーCCDカメラ
- 1 2 光学顕微鏡
- 13 白色照明
- 1 4 制御装置
- 1 9 RGB画像
- 1 9 B 青色画像
- 22 ラム

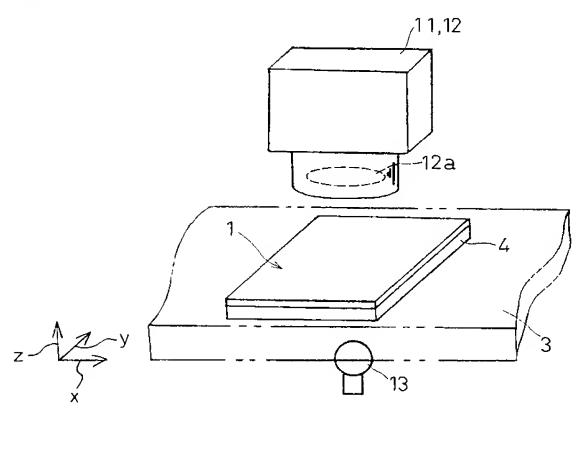
【図1】

- 28 画像ボード
- 29 非晶質膜領域
- 30 結晶膜領域
- 3 1 非晶質塊



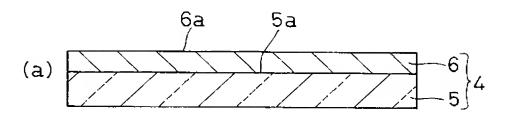


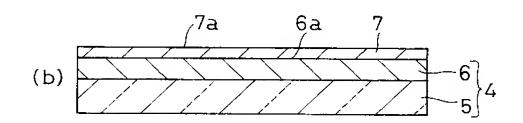
[図 2]

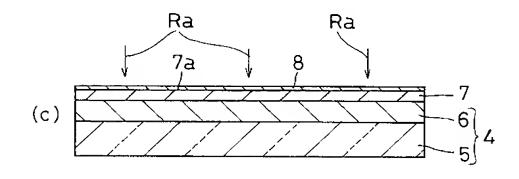


10

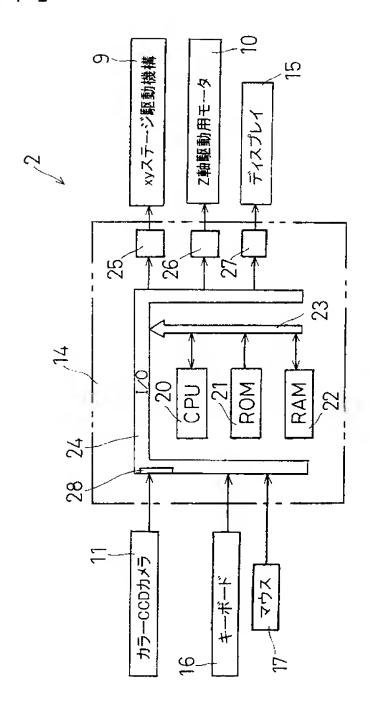
【図3】



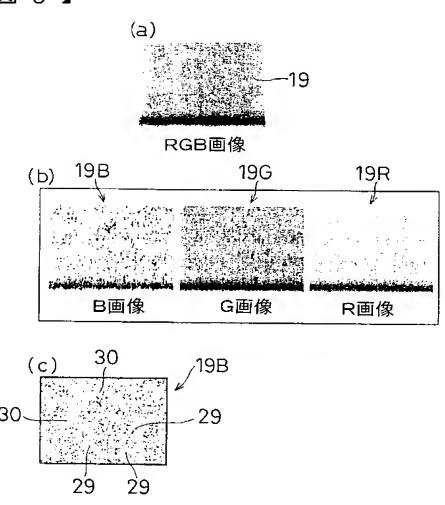


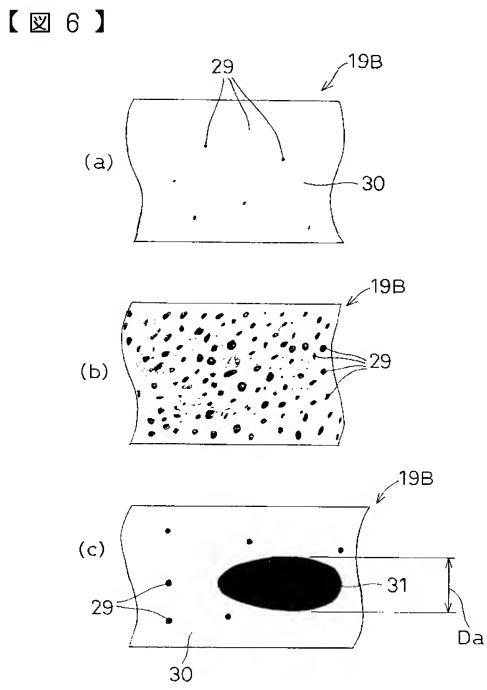


【図4】

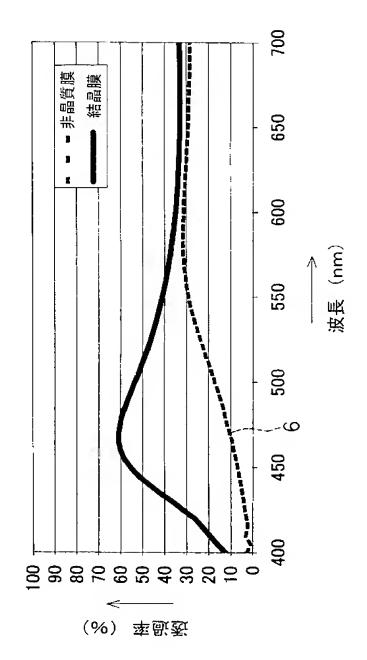


【図5】

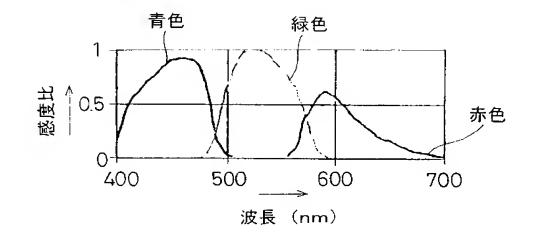




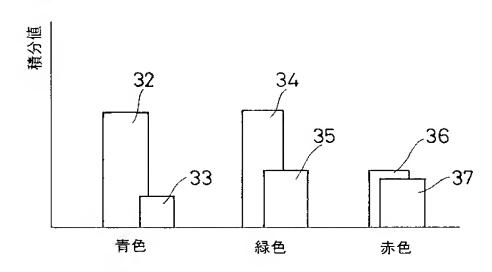
【図7】



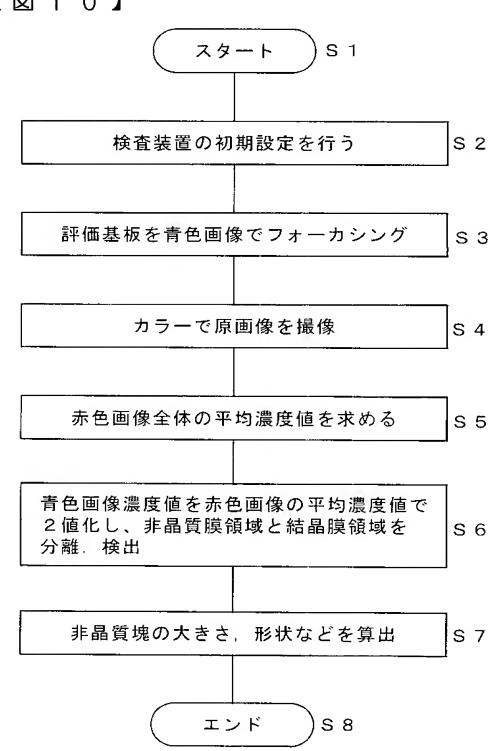
【図8】



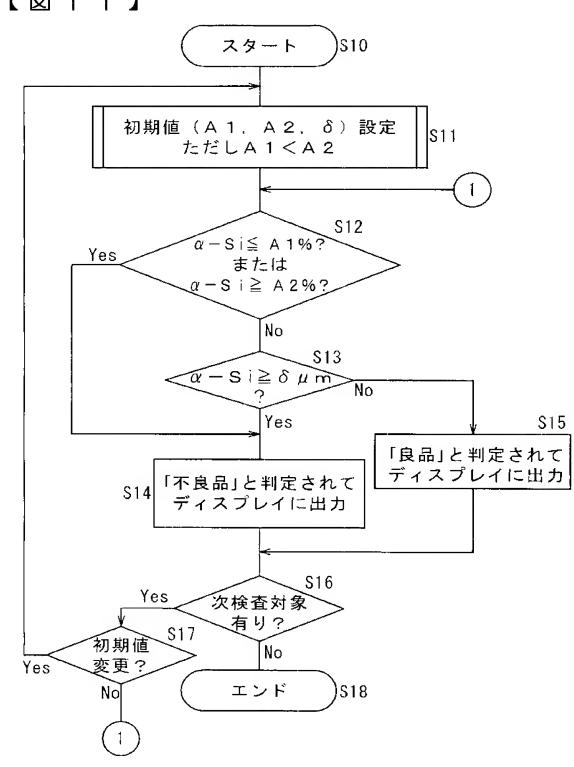
【図9】



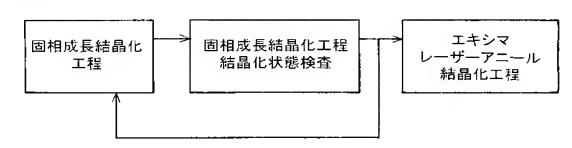
【図10】



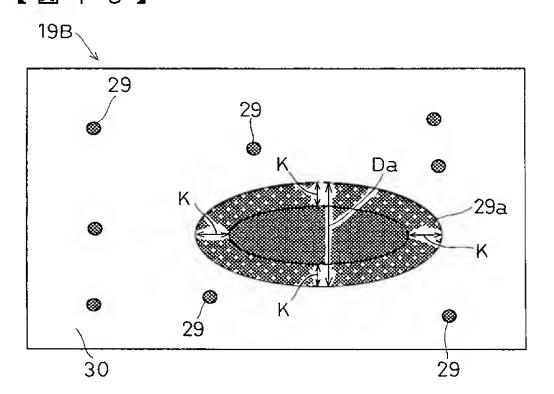
【図11】



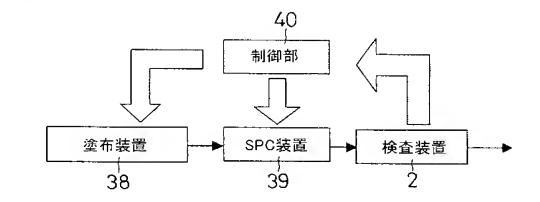
【図12】



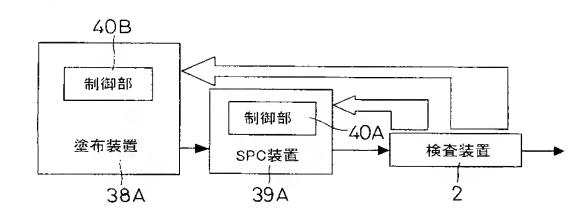
【図13】



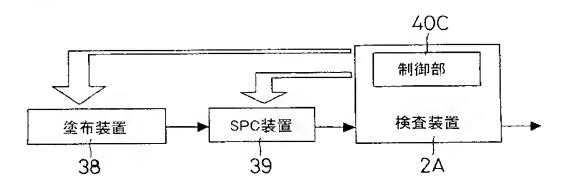
【図14】



【図15】



【図16】



フロントページの続き

F ターム(参考) 4M106 AA10 CB21 5F052 AA02 AA11 BB07 CA07 DA02 DB02 DB03 FA06 FA19 JA01

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number : 2004-071907

(43) Date of publication of application : **04.03.2004**

(51) Int. C1. H01L 21/66

H01L 21/20

H01L 21/268

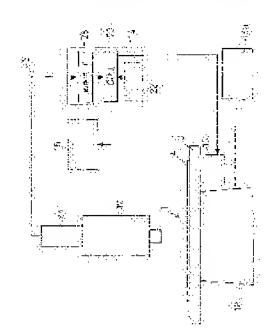
(21) Application number : 2002- (71) Applicant : SHARP CORP

230495

(22) Date of filing: **07.08.2002** (72) Inventor: **KUGE SACHIKO**

YAMAWAKI CHIAKI

(54) INSPECTION DEVICE AND METHOD OF CRYSTALLINE FILM



(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an inspection device and its method for a crystalline film for checking the crystal state of the crystalline film accurately in a simple way.

SOLUTION: The area separation of a blue image is carried out not only on the basis of its richness value but on the basis of an average richness of a red image obtained along with the blue image. The richness value of the blue image changes, for example, under shooting conditions containing richness of a crystalline film 1 and illuminance of white lighting, but the area is separated by using the average richness of the red image obtained along with the blue image, so a picture area of a noncrystalline film region and an image area of a crystalline film region are separated accurately even when the film thickness, for example, of the crystalline film 1 varies and thereby the shooting conditions are changed.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's

decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of

application other than the

examiner's decision of rejection or

application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for

application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against

examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against

examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2. *** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

An exposure means to irradiate the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film with which the amorphous film field and the crystal film field were intermingled, An image pick-up means to picturize the crystalline film,

Test equipment of the crystalline film characterized by having a field separation means to divide a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value, based on the average concentration value of the red image picturized using the exposure means and the image pick-up means.

[Claim 2]

An exposure means is test equipment of the crystalline film according to claim 1 characterized by being white lighting.

[Claim 3]

An image pick-up means is test equipment of the crystalline film according to claim 1 characterized by having an optical microscope. [Claim 4]

The 1st process which irradiates the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film which has an amorphous film field and a crystal film field,

The 2nd process which picturizes the crystalline film irradiated at the 1st process,

The inspection approach of the crystalline film characterized by having the 3rd process which divides a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the picturized red image.

[Claim 5]

Said 2nd process is the inspection approach of the crystalline film according to claim 4 characterized by making it focus about the light of a blue component, and picturizing.

[Claim 6]

In the approach of making crystallize the amorphous film selectively and producing the crystalline film, after producing the amorphous film, The mixture ratio of the amorphous film field obtained by the inspection approach of the crystalline film according to claim 4 or 5 and a crystal film field is compared with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field set up beforehand and a crystal film field,

The production approach of the crystalline film characterized by adjusting the conditions for [said] crystallizing selectively based on this comparison result.

[Claim 7]

The production approach of the crystalline film according to claim 6 characterized by adjusting the conditions for comparing an amorphous lump's gauge diameter beforehand determined as the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of the film material obtained by the inspection approach of said crystalline film, and crystallizing the amorphous film

selectively based on this comparison result. [Claim 8]

It is the film material obtained by the inspection approach of the crystalline film according to claim 4 or 5,

In the measurement approach of the amorphous lump which can measure the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of said film material at least, The measurement approach of the amorphous lump characterized by performing expansion processing or contraction processing to the binary image which carried out separation detection of the amorphous film field obtained by said inspection approach, and the crystal film field.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

.....

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the test equipment and the inspection approach of the crystalline film which are used after a solid phase growth crystallization process, when manufacturing the thin film transistor (TFT:Thin Film Transistor) of an active-matrix form etc., concerning the test equipment and the inspection approach of the crystalline film. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

The thin film transistor of the active-matrix form where want of high resolution formed the highly efficient semiconductor device in the 1 surface section of insulating substrates, such as glass, as an actuation method in a powerful liquid crystal display component, image sensors, etc. (TFT:Thin)

Film Transistor is used. It is common to said TFT to use a thin film-

like silicon semi-conductor. A thin film-like silicon semi-conductor is divided roughly into two, the amorphous silicon semi-conductor which consists of amorphous silicon, i.e., an amorphous silicon, and the crystalline silicon semi-conductor which consists of the silicon which has crystallinity.

[0003]

Since it has the description that membrane formation temperature is comparatively low, manufacturing comparatively easily by vapor growth is possible, and it is rich in mass production nature, most generally the amorphous silicon semi-conductor is used. However, since physical properties, such as conductivity, are inferior in an amorphous silicon semi-conductor compared with a crystalline silicon semi-conductor, in order to acquire a high-speed property, establishment of the manufacturing technology of TFT which consists of a crystalline silicon semi-conductor is called for strongly.

[0004]

The technique which forms a crystalline silicon semi-conductor is indicated by JP, 8-69968, A. namely, the 1 surface section of a substrate — plasma CVD (plasma CVD: Chemical Vapor Deposition) — an amorphous silicon thin film is formed of law or reduced pressure thermochemistry vapor growth. After applying a metal catalyst to this amorphous silicon thin film and giving a solid phase growth crystallization process, the crystalline silicon semi-conductor film (it may only be henceforth called the crystal film) which has the continuation grain boundary is formed through a laser annealing crystallization process.

[0005]

The transmitted light is irradiated after a laser annealing crystallization process at the crystal film, and the technique of inspecting the crystallized state of the crystal film is indicated by JP, 11-204606, A. This test equipment has the light source, a reflecting mirror, a condenser lens, xy stage and xy drive, and a measuring device on the strength [optical]. The crystal film of the substrate supported by xy stage through the reflecting mirror and the condenser lens is irradiated, and the light emitted from the light source is measured as it is also with said measuring device on the strength [optical] about the transparency reinforcement. Migration actuation of the xy stage is carried out with xy drive, and the optical reinforcement which does not make the crystal film of a substrate penetrate the light emitted from the light source through a reflecting mirror and a condenser lens is measured with a measuring device on the strength [optical]. The crystallized state of the crystal film is judged based on the ratio of

the transparency reinforcement to said optical reinforcement. [0006]

The technique of judging the crystallized state of the crystal film is indicated by preparing two or more checking substrates with which the amorphous silicon thin film was formed in the 1 surface section of a substrate for JP, 11-40637, A, changing the energy value of a excimer laser annealer selectively, and comparing the permeability near [corresponding to each energy value] the wavelength of 450nm by spectrometry.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

When the conventional technique of a publication of crystallization in a solid phase growth crystallization process is inadequate for JP, 8-69968, A, the field which remains while it has been amorphous silicon among the 1 surface sections of a substrate becomes large. When crystallization in a solid phase growth crystallization process goes too far reversely, the field which remains while it has been amorphous silicon among the 1 surface sections of a substrate becomes small. It is desirable to leave the amorphous silicon of a certain amount of surface ratio to the crystallized so-called polish recon at a solid phase growth crystallization process. This leaves the amorphous silicon of a certain amount of surface ratio at the solid phase growth crystallization process, and is because the thin film transistor of electron mobility produced using the crystal film obtained according to a subsequent laser annealing crystallization process is higher and Vth (threshold voltage; electrical potential difference in case a transistor turns on) is small. Therefore, when crystallization in a solid phase growth crystallization process is inadequate as mentioned above, and when crystallization advances too much, it must treat as a defect substrate. [8000]

Originally, test equipment given in JP,11-204606, A does not inspect the crystallized state of the crystal film after a laser annealing crystallization process, and does not inspect the crystallized state of the crystalline film after a solid phase growth crystallization process. When this test equipment is applied to the equipment which inspects the crystallized state of the crystal film after a solid phase growth crystallization process and the thickness of the crystalline film changes to un-wanting with the same production lot, it is greatly influenced by thickness, the crystallized state, i.e., the crystal growth condition, of the crystalline film, and it becomes impossible to judge it to accuracy temporarily. That is, in the test equipment of this

conventional technique, the problem that it will not be based on change of thickness and that it cannot judge in the thing resulting from the difference in the crystal growth condition of the crystalline film has change of the transparency reinforcement of the crystalline film.

[0009]

The equipment of the technique of a publication also inspects the crystallized state of the crystal film after a laser annealing crystallization process to JP,11-40637, A. When said equipment is temporarily applied to the equipment which inspects the crystallized state after a solid phase growth crystallization process and the thickness of the crystalline film changes to un-wanting with the same production lot, the crystallized state of the crystalline film is greatly influenced by thickness, and it becomes impossible to judge it to accuracy. So, in order to judge the crystallized state of the crystalline film to accuracy, the measuring device which measures the thickness of the crystalline film is needed separately, and there are problems, like facility costs cost dearly.

[0010]

Therefore, the object of this invention is offering the test equipment and the inspection approach of the crystalline high film of practicability while being able to inspect the crystallized state of the crystalline film correctly and easily.

 $\lceil 0011 \rceil$

[Means for Solving the Problem]

This invention is an exposure means to irradiate the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film with which the amorphous film field and the crystal film field were intermingled,

An image pick-up means to picturize the crystalline film, It is test equipment of the crystalline film characterized by having a field separation means to divide a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value, based on the average concentration value of the red image picturized using the exposure means and the image pick-up means.

[0012]

If this invention is followed, after irradiating the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film, this crystalline film will be picturized with an exposure means using an image pick-up means. A field separation means divides a blue image into two fields with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the red image picturized using these exposure

means and the image pick-up means. The blue images which picturize the crystalline film and are obtained differ in a concentration value in the image field of an amorphous film field, and the image field of a crystal film field.

[0013]

Therefore, the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field and crystal film field in the crystalline film can be held. And field separation of the blue image is not only carried out only with a concentration value, but a field is separated based on the average concentration value of said red image obtained with a blue image. Although the concentration value of a blue image changes with the conditions at the time of the image pick-up containing the concentration of for example, the crystalline film, and the illuminance by the exposure means Since a field is separated using the average concentration value of the red image obtained on the same conditions as this blue image, even if the conditions at the time of an image pick-up -- the thickness of the crystalline film changes, for example -- change, the image field of an amorphous film field and the image field of a crystal film field are separable into accuracy. Therefore, field separation is possible, without needing the equipment which acquires the conditions at the time of image pick-ups, such as thickness of the crystalline film. [0014]

Moreover, this invention is characterized by an exposure means being white lighting.

If this invention is followed, the exposure means which can irradiate the light which contains a blue component and a red component at least is easily realizable with white lighting. [0015]

Moreover, as for an image pick-up means, this invention is characterized by having an optical microscope.

If this invention is followed, since an image pick-up means has an optical microscope, an optical microscope can realize high spatial resolving power, and it becomes possible to inspect the crystalline film in a detail with a desired magnifying power.

[0016]

Moreover, this invention is the 1st process which irradiates the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film which has an amorphous film field and a crystal film field, The 2nd process which picturizes the crystalline film irradiated at the 1st process,

It is the inspection approach of the crystalline film characterized by

having the 3rd process which divides a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the picturized red image.

[0017]

If this invention is followed, in the 1st process, the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film which has an amorphous film field and a crystal film field will be irradiated, and the crystalline film irradiated at the 1st process will be picturized in the 2nd process. In the 3rd process, a blue image is divided into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the picturized red image. Therefore, the mixture ratio of an amorphous film field and a crystal film field can be held. And field separation of the blue image is not only carried out only with a concentration value, but a field is separated based on the average concentration value of said red image obtained with a blue image. Although the concentration value of a blue image changes with the conditions at the time of the image pick-up containing the concentration of for example, the crystalline film, and the illuminance by the exposure means Since a field is separated using the average concentration value of the red image obtained on the same conditions as this blue image, even if the conditions at the time of an image pick-up -- the thickness of the crystalline film changes, for example -- change, the image field of an amorphous film field and the image field of a crystal film field are separable into accuracy. Therefore, field separation is possible, without needing the equipment which acquires the conditions at the time of image pick-ups, such as thickness of the crystalline film. [0018]

Moreover, this invention is characterized by making said 2nd process focus about the light of a blue component, and picturizing it. [0019]

If this invention is followed, it will become possible by making the 2nd process focus about the light of a blue component, and picturizing to divide a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field clearly and easily with the concentration value. Therefore, it becomes possible to divide the crystalline film into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field clearly.

[0020]

Moreover, after this invention produces the amorphous film, it is set to the approach of making crystallize the amorphous film selectively and producing the crystalline film, The mixture ratio of the amorphous film field obtained by the inspection approach of said crystalline film and a crystal film field is compared with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field set up beforehand and a crystal film field,

It is the production approach of the crystalline film characterized by adjusting the conditions for [said] crystallizing selectively based on this comparison result.

[0021]

If this invention is followed, after producing the amorphous film, the amorphous film will be crystallized selectively, the crystalline film will be produced, and the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field obtained by inspection and a crystal film field will be compared with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field set up beforehand and a crystal film field. Based on this comparison result, the conditions for crystallizing the amorphous film selectively can be adjusted. It becomes possible to produce the crystalline film which made the desired ratio the mixture ratio of an amorphous film field and a crystal film field by this.

[0022]

Moreover, this invention compares an amorphous lump's gauge diameter beforehand determined as the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of the film material obtained by the inspection approach of said crystalline film, and is characterized by adjusting the conditions for crystallizing the amorphous film selectively based on this comparison result.

[0023]

If this invention is followed, after producing the amorphous film, the amorphous film will be crystallized selectively, the crystalline film will be produced, and an amorphous lump's gauge diameter beforehand determined as the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of the film material obtained by inspection will be compared. Based on this comparison result, the conditions for crystallizing the amorphous film selectively can be adjusted. It becomes possible to produce the crystalline film made under into the overall diameter of a request of the amorphous lump of film material by this.

[0024]

Moreover, this invention is film material obtained by the inspection approach of said crystalline film,

In the measurement approach of the amorphous lump which can measure the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of said film material at least, It is the measurement approach of the amorphous lump characterized by

performing expansion processing or contraction processing to the binary image which carried out separation detection of the amorphous film field obtained by said inspection approach, and the crystal film field.

[0025]

By the inspection approach of the crystalline film, if this invention is followed, after obtaining the binary image which carried out separation detection of an amorphous film field and the crystal film field, expansion processing or contraction processing can be performed to this binary image, and the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of film material can be measured. Therefore, the amorphous lump of non-wanted magnitude can be measured certainly and it becomes possible to detect beforehand the amorphous film field used as causes, such as for example, poor electron mobility and a pixel defect, so.

[0026]

In this invention, the vocabulary "the crystalline film" means the film in the condition that the amorphous film field and the crystal film field are intermingled.

[0027]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Drawing 1 is the mimetic diagram showing the configuration of the test equipment 2 of the crystalline film 1 concerning the operation gestalt of this invention, and drawing 2 is the perspective view showing selectively the relation of the crystalline film 1 and test equipment 2 which were formed in the substrate 4. This operation gestalt shows an example at the time of applying the test equipment of this invention to the test equipment which inspects the crystalline film obtained after a solid phase growth crystallization process, when manufacturing the thin film transistor of for example, an active-matrix form etc. The following explanation also includes the explanation about the inspection approach of the crystalline film 1, and the production approach of the crystalline film 1. After producing the amorphous silicon semi-conductor film (it may only be henceforth called the amorphous film), this amorphous film shall be selectively crystallized according to a solid phase growth crystallization process, and the crystalline film 1 shall be produced.

[0028]

Drawing 3 is the sectional view expanding and showing a substrate 4 in the thickness direction, and after it forms the crystalline film in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4, it is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film. The substrate 4 shown in drawing 3 (a) is seen from [which is an electric

insulation ingredient / which consists, for example of glass etc.] thickness, for example, the amorphous silicon layer 6 which is the amorphous film is formed, and it is constituted by surface section 5a of the rectangular plate-like base material 5. The board thickness of the plate-like base material 5 is formed in about 0.7mm. the amorphous silicon layer 6 -- for example, plasma CVD (CVD:Chemical Vapor Deposition) -- law or LPCVD (LPCVD:Low Pressure Chemical Vapor Deposition) -- it is formed of law, for example, has the thickness of 1500A or less extent more than about 1000A (A). [0029]

Next, as shown in drawing 3 (b), for example, oxidation liquid is applied to 1 surface section 6a of the amorphous silicon layer 6, and an oxide film 7 is formed in it of work of this oxidation liquid. the crystallization acceleration liquid besides a graphic display is applied to 1 surface section 7a of an oxide film 7, and as shown in drawing 3 (c) after that, in order to apply a metal catalyst to 1 surface section 7a of an oxide film 7, the catalyst deposit 8 is formed by the revolution coater 38 (drawing 14 and refer to drawing 16 -- it is also only called a coater 38). In a solid phase growth crystallization process, the substrate 4 shown in drawing 3 (c) in which the catalyst deposit 8 was formed is heated as the more than temperature from which crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 begins, for example, almost at least 550 degrees C, is, and crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 advances. After the solid phase growth crystallization process that crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 advanced to some extent, the crystalline film 1 is inspected with the test equipment 2 mentioned later. Then, in a excimer laser annealing crystallization process, laser beam Ra is irradiated to the amorphous silicon layer 6 using a excimer laser annealer. Consequently, the amorphous silicon layer 6 is fused once and is polycrystal-ized through a cooling solidification process. That is, the crystal film is formed in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4. [0030]

The test equipment 2 which inspects the crystalline film 1 immediately after a solid phase growth crystallization process has the xy stage 3, xy stage drive 9, the motor 10 for z-axis actuation, color CCD camera 11 (CCD:Charge Coupled Device) as an image pick-up means and an optical microscope 12, the white lighting 13 as an exposure means, the control device 14 as a field separation means, a display 15, and a keyboard 16 and a mouse 17 (refer to drawing 4). The xy stage 3 is a stage which carries out adsorption support of the substrate 4, and is constituted

movable in x directions in alignment with the longitudinal direction of the abbreviation rectangle-like stage 3, and the direction of y which intersects perpendicularly in the thickness direction of a substrate 4 and x directions by which adsorption support was carried out. This xy stage 3 is supported movable in x and the direction of y to the base frame 18.

 $\lceil 0031 \rceil$

xy stage drive 9 is a device which moves selectively a part of arbitration of the crystalline film 1 to a location to be examined to color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12, and white lighting 9. This xy stage drive 9 has the x direction drive besides the graphic display which has the driving source in which migration actuation is possible for the xy stage 3 in the x directions, and the direction drive of y besides the graphic display which has the driving source in which migration actuation is possible for the xy stage 3 in the direction of y. The motor 10 for z-axis actuation has the function which moves in the thickness direction (direction shown by the arrow mark z) of a substrate 4 to color CCD camera 11 on the xy stage 3 and which gets blocked and carries out focusing adjustment.

Color CCD camera 11 consists of red (R) and a RGB image 19 which consists of a green (G) and blue (B) color possible [the image pick-up for an image pick-up]. This color CCD camera 11 is supported by thickness direction one side of a substrate 4, and the optical microscope 12 is attached in the image pick-up section of this color CCD camera 11. Therefore, color CCD camera 11 arranges the crystalline film 1 formed in the substrate 4 possible [an image pick-up] through an optical microscope 12, and is formed. An optical microscope 12 has objective lens 12a, and this color CCD camera 11 is constituted through the optical microscope 12 possible [an image pick-up of the field of the shape of an abbreviation 128micrometerx128micrometer rectangle]. Thus, since an image pick-up means has color CCD camera 11 and the optical microscope 12 with high spatial resolving power, it becomes possible [inspecting the crystalline film 1 in a detail as it is also at a desired magnifying power].

[0033]

White lighting 13 consists of a halogen lamp. It is prepared in the base frame 18 at one, and this white lighting 13 meets in the direction of an abbreviation optical axis of color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12, it is arranged that is, arranged and is formed in thickness direction another side of a substrate 4. This white lighting

13 is constituted possible [the exposure for an exposure] in the white light which has about 400nm or more wavelength component about 700nm or less. It is constituted so that this transmitted light may be picturized using color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12, after irradiating the crystalline film 1 of the substrate 4 which is an object for an exposure and making it penetrate said white light towards thickness direction one side of a substrate 4. Moreover, the volume besides circuit changing switch 13a for carrying out the manual change of an exposure condition and the condition of not irradiating, and the graphic display for setting up an illuminance is attached to white lighting 13.

[0034]

Drawing 4 is the block diagram of the control system of test equipment 2. A control unit 14 has the microcomputer which consists of arithmetic and program control 20 (CPU:Central Processing Unit), ROM 21 (ROM:ReadOnly Memory), and a ram 22 (RAM: Random Access Memory), a bus 23, an input/output interface 24, and the actuation circuits 25, 26, and 27. Arithmetic and program control 20, ROM 21, and the ram 22 are electrically connected to the input/output interface 24 through the bus 23. In the interior of a control device 14, the image board 28 is electrically connected to an input/output interface 24, and this image board 28 and color CCD camera 11 are connected electrically. The keyboard 16 and mouse 17 which are an input means are electrically connected to the input/output interface 24, respectively. [0035]

xy stage drive 9, the motor 10 for Z-axis actuation, and the display 15 are electrically connected to the input/output interface 24 through the actuation circuits 25, 26, and 27, respectively. The below-mentioned detection program which separates into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30, and detects the picturized RGB image 19 (refer to drawing 5 a) is stored in ROM 21. A detection program is performed with arithmetic and program control 20. The mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 is beforehand set to a ram 22, and is recorded on it. The gauge diameter of the amorphous lump's 31 overall diameter Da mentioned later is beforehand set to a ram 22, and is recorded on it.

[0036]

Moreover, the adjustment program is stored in ROM 21. While an adjustment program compares the mixture ratio of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 obtained by the detection program, and the image field of the crystal film field 30 with the mixture ratio set up

beforehand The greatest minor axis of the amorphous lump 31 which is the overall diameter Da of the amorphous lump 31 of the film material obtained by inspection (it is also called particle size), It has the function which compares said gauge diameter, and the burning temperature of the heating furnace besides the graphic display for giving heat energy to the conditions 6 in a solid phase growth crystallization process, for example, the amorphous film, its firing time, etc. are adjusted based on these comparison results. The image board 28 is equipped with the video ram besides a graphic display, and this video ram has the function which records the RGB image 19 picturized with color CCD camera 11 possible [rewriting] as an RGB code. Firm output of the image pick-up image is carried out to a display 15 through the image board 28, an input/output interface 24, and the actuation circuit 27.

[0037]

Drawing 5 is the explanatory view showing the usage of the picturized image gradually. Drawing 6 is the mimetic diagram of the image field judged to be a defective, and when the ratio of drawing 6 (a) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too low, and the ratio of drawing 6 (b) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too high, drawing 6 (c) is the mimetic diagram of blue image 19B in case the amorphous lump's 31 greatest minor axis Da (it is also only called an overall diameter Da) is said more than gauge diameter. Drawing 7 is the graph showing the transparency property over the wavelength of the amorphous film and the crystal film, drawing 8 is the graph showing the spectral characteristic over the wavelength of color CCD camera 11, and drawing 9 is the graph showing the relation of the concentration value of the amorphous film 6 in each color component, and the crystal film. Blue image 19B is the image obtained by carrying out photo electric translation of the optical image of a blue wavelength component here. In green image 19G, it is the image obtained by carrying out photo electric translation of the optical image of a green wavelength component. Red image 19R is the image obtained by carrying out photo electric translation of the optical image of a red wavelength component. Moreover, the amorphous lump's 31 overall diameter Da is synonymous with a diameter-at-the-maximum-equator dimension among the dimensions of the diameter direction which intersects perpendicularly with the amorphous lump's 31 longitudinal direction.

[0038]

The transparency properties of as opposed to wavelength in the amorphous film 6 and the crystal film differ. When turn, and irradiate the white

light which has about 400nm or more wavelength component 700nm or less, the substrate 4 whole is made to penetrate it and the transmitted light is picturized using color CCD camera 11 as mentioned above for example, the quantity of light of the transmitted light which color CCD camera 11 receives changes with crystallization conditions in a substrate 4. In the image pick-up field of color CCD camera 11, when the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 are intermingled, an image pickup image is reflected by the difference in permeability, i.e., a concentration value. In the about 400nm or more near [500nm or less] section, a big difference is between the permeability of the light of the crystal film, and the permeability of the light of the amorphous film 6 among the white lights. Therefore, among red, green, and the blue images 19R, 19G, and 19B, in blue image 19B, the concentration value of the amorphous film field 29 is low, and the concentration value of the crystal film field 30 is high. Using such a property, it separates into the image field of the amorphous film field 29, and the image field of the crystal film field 30, and blue image 19B is detected. [0039]

As shown in drawing 7, the permeability of the amorphous film 6 in the near Labout 400nm or more 500nm or less wavelength J section is lower than the permeability of the amorphous film 6 in the near [about 600nm or more 700nm or less wavelength] section, and its permeability of the crystal film in the near [about 400nm or more 500nm or less wavelength] section is higher than the permeability of the crystal film in the near [about 600nm or more 700nm or less wavelength] section. Therefore, the wavelength configuration in the about 400nm or more near [500nm or less] section, The wavelength configuration in the about 600nm or more near [700nm or less] section is same extent. And an average concentration value [in / the case of same extent / on these wavelength fields and / in the light-receiving sensibility of color CCD camera 11 / red image 19R] comes to spread abbreviation etc. on the mean value of the concentration value of the crystal film in blue image 19B, and the concentration value of the amorphous film 6. [0040]

Moreover, in the about 600nm or more near [700nm or less] section, the difference of the permeability of the crystal film and the permeability of the amorphous film is small. That is, in red image 19R, the contrast difference of the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 becomes small. as shown in drawing 7 - drawing 9 here, in the near [about 400nm or more 500nm or less wavelength] section, rather than the integral value 33 which integrated with the concentration value of

the amorphous film 6, and the sensibility ratio of blue image 19B, the integral value 32 which integrated with the concentration value of the crystal film and the sensibility ratio of blue image 19B is boiled markedly, and becomes large.

[0041]

In the near [about 500nm or more 600nm or less wavelength] section, the integral value 34 which integrated with the concentration value of the crystal film and the sensibility ratio of green image 19G becomes a little larger than the integral value 35 which integrated with the concentration value of the amorphous film 6, and the sensibility ratio of green image 19G. In the near [about 600nm or more 700nm or less wavelength] section, the integral value 36 which integrated with the concentration value of the crystal film and the sensibility ratio of red image 19R becomes large a little rather than the integral value 37 which integrated with the concentration value of the amorphous film 6, and the sensibility ratio of red image 19R. The average concentration value of this red image 19R is used as separation with the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 in blue image 19B, and a concentration threshold for detection.

[0042]

So, since permeability does not change even if it changes a lighting illuminance, when not changing the wavelength component of transmitted illumination, it can set up a concentration threshold, without being influenced by fluctuation of a lighting illuminance. The image field of the crystal film field 30 and the image field of the amorphous film field 29 are separated by making blue image 19B binary using this result by making the average concentration value of the whole red image 19R into a concentration threshold. At this time, the image field of the amorphous film field 29 and the field of a larger concentration value than said concentration threshold are [the field of a concentration value smaller than said concentration threshold] detectable as an image field of the crystal film field 30. Hereafter, the image field of the amorphous film field 29 may only be called the amorphous film field 29. The image field of the crystal film field 30 may only be called the crystal film field 30.

[0043]

Drawing 10 is a flow chart which shows the process which inspects the crystalline film 1 obtained according to a solid phase growth crystallization process. Si (i= 1, 2 and 3, --) shows a step here. After carrying out adsorption support of the assessment substrate 4 on the xy stage 3 and changing the manual change of the circuit changing switch

13a of white lighting 13 into an exposure condition from the condition of not irradiating, the main power supply besides the graphic display of the test equipment 2 of a step 1 odor lever is switched on, and initial setting of test equipment 2 is performed at step 2. As an initialization item, there are a lighting illuminance of white lighting 13, an inspection location by xy stage drive 9 of the assessment substrate 4, etc. concretely.

[0044]

The RGB image 19 picturized by color CCD camera 11 and the optical microscope 12 is sent to the image board 28 as an RGB code from color CCD camera 11, and firm output is further carried out to a display 15 through an input/output interface 24 and the actuation circuit 27. Inspecting visually the transparency image outputted to the display 15, the illuminance of the white lighting 13 which is said initialization item is set up, it moves in x directions and the direction of y with xy stage drive 9 on the xy stage 3, and the inspection location which is an initialization item is set up.

[0045]

It shifts to step 3 after that, and focusing adjustment is carried out by blue image 19B used as a final assessment image so that the contrast difference of the crystal film field 30 and the amorphous film field 29 may become large. By the way, although it is desirable to make it focus about the light of red, blue, and a green component, respectively when picturizing the RGB image 19 with color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12, it is technically difficult from originating in the aberration of each color component and depth of field not being in agreement to focus about the light of three red, blue, and a green component with the magnifying power of an optical microscope 12 etc. What is necessary is just to make it focus about the light of a blue component at least according to the inspection approach of this test equipment 2 and the crystalline film 1, in order to perform concentration value information that the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 are separated, by blue image 19B. The condition that the focus of a focus of an optical microscope 12 corresponds with the front face of the crystalline film 1 for an image pick-up is said here. Furthermore, a focus says the condition that the light of a blue component is in a focal location.

[0046]

In step 4, two or more images of the crystalline film 1 are picturized, making migration actuation carry out in the thickness direction of the substrate 4 in which the xy stage 3 is shown by the arrow mark z with

the instruction sent to the motor 10 for Z-axis actuation through a bus 23, an input/output interface 24, and the actuation circuit 26 from arithmetic and program control 20. This image picturized two or more sheets is recorded on said video ram possible [rewriting]. Then, said detection program elects the high image of the variance of a concentration value in a blue component from from among the image pick-up images of two or more sheets.

[0047]

The contrast of an image becomes high, when the contrast of an image becomes small and the focus suits so that a focus shifts. If it puts in another way, dispersion in the concentration value in an image can use the most remarkable image as a focus image highly [the contrast of an image]. Therefore, the variance of the concentration value in an image is computed and compared, and let an image with the largest variance, i.e., an image with the highest contrast, be a focus image. Then, a detection program separates the RGB image 19 into blue image 19B, red image 19R, and green image 19G. [0048]

Next, it shifts to step 5 and the average concentration value of the whole red image 19R is computed by the detection program. In step 6, said average concentration value is divided into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 by making blue image 19B binary as a concentration threshold. At this time, the field of a concentration value smaller than a concentration threshold can be detected as an amorphous film field 29, and the field of a larger concentration value than said concentration threshold can be detected as a crystal film field 30. After that, while computing the amorphous lump's 31 minor axis Da in step 7, the area of the amorphous film field 29 is computed and it ends in step 8.

[0049]

Drawing 11 is the flow chart of said adjustment program stored in ROM 21, and is a flow chart which compares the mixture ratio of the amorphous film 6 obtained by inspection of the crystalline film 1, and the amorphous lump's 31 minor axis Da with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film set up beforehand and the amorphous lump's 31 gauge diameter. Si (i= 10, 11 and 12, --) shows a step here. Drawing 12 is the block diagram showing the relation between a solid phase growth crystallization process and the inspection process of the crystalline film 1. The program of a step 10 odor lever is started and initial value A1, A2, and delta is set up by the operator in step 11. Initial value A1 is the minimum value of the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29

among the whole blue image 19B, and initial value A2 is the maximum of the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 among the whole blue image 19B. However, initial value A1 is set up smaller than initial value A2. Moreover, initial value delta is the amorphous lump's 31 gauge diameter. These initial value A1, A2, and delta is set up experientially. These initial value A1, A2, and delta is recorded on a ram 22. [0050]

Next, if the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 which shifts to step 12 and is obtained by inspection of the crystalline film 1 mentioned above is judged to be less than [initial value A1%] as shown in drawing 6 (a), it will shift to step 14. If the mixture ratio of said amorphous film field 29 is judged more than as initial value A2% as shown in drawing 6 (b), it will shift to step 14. In step 13, if it judges that the overall diameter Da of the amorphous lump 31 of the film material obtained by inspection of the crystalline film 1 mentioned above is beyond the initial value delta as shown in drawing 6 (c), it will shift to step 14.

[0051]

In step 14, it judges that the crystalline film 1 to be examined is a defective, and it is outputted to a display 15. If judged with it being judged with it being larger than initial value A1%, and being smaller than initial value A2% as the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 shows drawing 5 (c), and the overall diameter Da of the amorphous lump 31 of film material being under the initial value delta in step 13 in step 12, it shifts to step 15, and it will judge that the crystalline film 1 of this subject of examination is an excellent article, and it will be outputted to a display 15. Next, if there is the following crystalline film 1 to be examined at step 16, it will shift to step 17. In changing initial value A1, A2, and delta in step 17, it returns to step 11. In not changing initial value A1, A2, and delta, it returns to step 12. At step 16, when there is next no subject of examination, it shifts to step 18 and ends.

[0052]

As mentioned above, the crystalline film 1 to be examined can ensure [promptly and] defect detection of poor growth of the crystalline film 1 by judging whether it is an excellent article or it is a defective with test equipment 2 immediately after a solid phase growth crystallization process. Moreover, as shown in drawing 12, the mixture ratio and initial value A1 and A2 of the amorphous film field 29 are compared, the amorphous lump's 31 overall diameter Da and gauge diameter delta are compared, and the conditions for crystalizing the amorphous

film 6 selectively in a solid phase growth crystallization process, for example, the burning temperature of a heating furnace, the firing time of those, etc. can be adjusted by feeding back the information on these comparison results to a solid phase growth crystallization process. It becomes possible to produce the crystalline film 1 which made the desired ratio the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 by this. Moreover, it becomes possible to produce the crystalline film 1 which made the amorphous lump 31 of film material the path of under the gauge diameter delta.

[0053]

Based on the inspection information on the crystalline film 1 inspected with test equipment 2, the factor of unevenness and poor firing time can also be grasped as the metal catalyst spreading concentration unevenness in the process before a solid phase growth crystallization process whenever L in a solid phase growth crystallization process / furnace temperature]. Therefore, it can use for production control by managing said inspection information. For example, if the "concentration unevenness" mentioned later is in the catalyst deposit 8 applied by the coater 38, in the same substrate 4, the "unevenness" according to the coordinate of x directions and the direction of y will occur also into the mixture ratio of the distribution condition of the amorphous film 6, the amorphous lump's 31 particle size, the amorphous film field 29, and the crystal film field 30. Concentration is the molecular weight per unit area in a substrate 4 here, and it is the molecular weight of the molecule defined beforehand. That is, "concentration unevenness" has the molecular weight synonymous with varying according to the coordinate of x directions and the direction of y un-wanting per unit area of a substrate 4. Said concentration can be measured using an X-ray etc. [0054]

The particle size of the amorphous lump 31 of the film material in the substrate 4 used as a gauge diameter is memorized to a ram 22. The mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 in the substrate 4 set up beforehand and the crystal film field 30 is also memorized to a ram 22. The relation between the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8 in the substrate 4 used as criteria, and the particle size of the amorphous lump 31 after a solid phase growth crystallization process and a mixture ratio is also memorized to the ram 22. Therefore, while comparing the particle size of the amorphous lump 31 of the substrate 4 used as a subject of examination with the particle size of the amorphous lump 31 which becomes the gauge diameter memorized by the ram 22, the increase and decrease of a value of the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8

formed by the coater 38 can be adjusted by comparing the mixture ratio of the substrate 4 used as a subject of examination with the mixture ratio memorized by the ram 22.

[0055]

Drawing 13 is an explanatory view explaining the process in which the amorphous film grows up to be the crystal film. Moreover, the amorphous film field 29 which remains immediately after a solid phase growth crystallization process judges whether it grows up to be a crystal at said after process using the binary image divided into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 by carrying out simulation of the crystallization of the amorphous film field 29 in an after process, i.e., a excimer laser annealing crystallization process. By this, the quality of the crystallized state of the crystalline film 1, the quality, and the quality of the conditions, i.e., burning temperature, about solid phase growth crystallization process equipment 39 (abbreviated-name SPC equipment: Solid-Phase Crystallization) and firing time of the concentration about a coater 38 are judged. The amorphous film field 29 grows up to be a crystal in a excimer laser annealing process after a solid phase growth crystallization process. As shown in drawing 13, about K micrometers of each amorphous film field 29 grow up to be a crystal toward the interior from the periphery section 29a (for example, K= 1.5).

[0056]

Therefore, when the minor axis Da of the amorphous film field 29 is 2 or more Kmum, the part which does not make said amorphous film field 29 a crystal after a excimer laser annealing process at growth with the condition of the amorphous film field 29 remains eventually. Since it becomes poor [electron mobility] in a liquid crystal panel and becomes a pixel defect, such a residual part of the amorphous film field 29 needs to detect the amorphous film field 29 whose amorphous film field 29 Da, i.e., said minor axis, which is not crystallized after a excimer laser annealing process is 2 or more Kmum immediately after a solid phase growth crystallization process. Then, from the binary image divided into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30, a minor axis Da detects the amorphous film field 29 of 2 or more Kmum. [0057]

The amorphous film field 29 of 2 or more Kmum can be detected by performing expansion processing or contraction processing in which said minor axis Da is an image processing to a binary image. It says changing the value of the pixel on the boundary of the graphic form component of the amorphous film field 29 whose contraction processing is a processing object into the value of the pixel of the crystal film field 30 which is a background component, and contracting it by 1 pixel. It says that expansion processing swells a graphic form component by 1 pixel conversely. In a binary image, when the concentration value of the amorphous film field 29 is smaller than the concentration value of the crystal film field 30, specifically, expansion processing is performed. In a binary image, when the concentration value of the amorphous film field 29 is larger than the concentration value of the crystal film field 30, contraction processing is performed.

[0058]

Such expansion and contraction processing are repeated until expansion and contraction size are set to Kmum. For example, filter size of expansion processing or contraction processing is made about into eight, and the resolution of an image pick-up image repeats processing 5 times at the time of K/5 micrometer. Or a radius creates the circular filter of Kmum and expansion or contraction processing is performed once so that filter size may serve as Kmum. By such expansion processing or contraction processing, as for the amorphous film field 29 of 2 or less Kmum, a minor axis Da disappears, and only the amorphous film field 29 where a minor axis Da is larger than 2Kmum remains. Therefore, the amorphous film field 29 leading to said poor electron mobility and a pixel defect is detectable before a excimer laser annealing process. [0059]

Drawing 14 is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38. If the approach of the production control mentioned above is further stated to a detail, as shown in drawing 14, the control section 40 is independently formed in test equipment 2, and SPC equipment 39 and a coater 38. This control section 40 performs feedback control to SPC equipment 39 and a coater 38 based on the feedback information from test equipment 2. [0060]

As said feedback information, there are a mixture ratio of the x and the direction location of y, the amorphous film field 29, and the crystal film field 30 in the substrate 4 of an image pick-up image, the amorphous lump's 31 particle size, a configuration (it is synonymous with the configuration for judging whether a configuration here has the minor axis of the amorphous soul 31 larger than 2K or it is small.) of the amorphous film field 29, etc., and such information is sent to a control section 40 from test equipment 2, for example. A control section 40 sends the command of a service condition to SPC equipment 39 and a coater 38 based on said sent information, respectively.

[0061]

The relation of the burning temperature of SPC equipment 39 and the mixture ratio which were specifically acquired beforehand, the relation of the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8 and the mixture ratio which were acquired beforehand, and the relation of the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8 and the amorphous lump's 31 particle size which were acquired beforehand, From said feedback information, it judges how much excess and deficiency had the concentration of the required catalyst deposit 8, and the burning temperature of SPC equipment 39 to the optimum value about x and the direction location of y in a substrate 4.

[0062]

the result judged in said control section 40 -- whenever [furnace temperature / of the heating furnace of SPC equipment 39], i.e., burning temperature, a constant rate -- when judged with it being high or being low, it becomes possible from the following substrate 4 to produce by the optimum state by sending the command which only said constant rate lowers whenever [furnace temperature], or raises it to SPC equipment 39. moreover, the result judged in the control section 40 -- the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8 -- a constant rate -- when judged with it being high or being low, it becomes possible by ordering it the increase and decrease of a value of spreading concentration to a coater 38 to produce by the optimum state from the following substrate 4.

[0063]

Moreover, as a result of judging in a control section 40, control and the concentration control about a coater 38 become possible [producing by the optimum state] from the following substrate 4 whenever [furnace temperature / of SPC equipment 39] by ordering it the location and the amount of control of the x and the direction of y of a substrate 4 to SPC equipment 39 and a coater 38 according to the location of the x and the direction of y of a substrate 4, respectively, in being required. [0064]

According to the test equipment 2 of the crystalline film 1 explained above, with white lighting 13, after irradiating the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film 1, this crystalline film 1 is picturized using color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12. A control unit 14 divides blue image 19B into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of red image 19R picturized using white lighting 13, color CCD camera 11, and

the optical microscope 12. [0065]

Therefore, the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 in the crystalline film 1 can be held. And field separation of the blue image 19B is not only carried out only with a concentration value, but a field is separated based on the average concentration value of red image 19R obtained with blue image 19B. Although the concentration value of blue image 19B changes with the conditions at the time of the image pick-up containing the concentration of the crystalline film 1, and the illuminance by white lighting 13 Since a field is separated using the average concentration value of red image 19R obtained on the same conditions as this blue image 19B For example, even if the conditions at the time of an image pick-up -- the thickness of the crystalline film 1 changes -- change, the image field of the amorphous film field 29 and the image field of the crystal film field 30 are separable into accuracy. Therefore, field separation is possible, without needing the equipment which acquires the conditions at the time of image pick-ups, such as thickness of the crystalline film 1. Thus, according to the test equipment 2 and the inspection approach which were mentioned above, practicability can be made high while being able to inspect the crystallized state of the crystalline film 1 correctly and easily.

[0066]

Moreover, the exposure means which can irradiate the crystalline film 1 can realize easily light containing a blue component and a red component with white lighting 13. Since an image pick-up means has color CCD camera 11 and an optical microscope 12, it can realize high spatial resolving power with an optical microscope 12, and becomes possible [inspecting the crystalline film 1 in a detail with a desired magnifying power]. Moreover, in this inspection approach, it becomes possible by making it focus about the light of a blue component, and picturizing to divide blue image 19B into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 clearly and easily with the concentration value. Therefore, it becomes possible to divide the crystalline film 1 into the amorphous film field 29 and the crystal film field 30 clearly. [0067]

While comparing the mixture ratio of an amorphous film field with the initial value of the amorphous film field set up beforehand as other gestalten of operation of this invention and judging whether the crystalline film to be examined is an excellent article or it is a defective only based on this comparison result, it enables it to adjust

the burning temperature of said conditions in a solid phase growth crystallization process, for example, a heating furnace, its firing time, etc. In this case, since it becomes unnecessary to compare the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of film material with a gauge diameter, the adjustment program itself can simplify and defect detection of poor growth of the crystalline film can be quickened further.

[0068]

Drawing 15 is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39A, and coater 38A, and drawing 16 is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2A, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38. However, the same sign is given to the same member as said operation gestalt, and the detailed explanation is omitted. In said operation gestalt, although the control section 40 is independently formed in test equipment 2, and SPC equipment 39 and a coater 38, in the gestalt shown in drawing 15, control-section 40A is prepared in SPC equipment 39A, and control-section 40B is prepared in coater 38A. It can judge how much excess and deficiency as for controlsection 40A, the burning temperature of SPC equipment 39A had to the optimum value, and control-section 40B can judge how much excess and deficiency had the concentration of the catalyst deposit 8 to the optimum value. Moreover, as shown in drawing 16, it is also possible to prepare control-section 40C in test equipment 2A at one. [0069]

In case the crystalline film to be examined is picturized, an optical microscope and a color CCD camera may be made into the structure which carries out migration actuation, without making the migration actuation of the xy stage carry out in the direction of z. While carrying out migration actuation of the xy stage furthermore, it is also possible for it to be made to carry out migration actuation of an optical microscope and the color CCD camera. The inspection approach of this invention may be, inspection, i.e., the total inspection, of the crystalline film of all substrates produced, and may be the sampling inspection of the crystalline film within all production—lot units.

[0070]

The test equipment and the inspection approach of this invention are not necessarily applied, only when manufacturing the thin film transistor of an active-matrix form. In this operation gestalt, although the ram was applied as a means to record the gauge diameter of said mixture ratio and an amorphous lump's overall diameter etc., it is also possible to apply other record means, such as a hard disk. White lighting is not necessarily limited to what consists of a halogen lamp. In addition, in

the range which does not deviate from a claim, various partial change may be made to said operation gestalt.

[0071]

[Effect of the Invention]

According to this invention, a field separation means divides a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the red image picturized using the exposure means and the image pick-up means as mentioned above. Therefore, the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field and crystal film field in the crystalline film can be held. And field separation of the blue image is not only carried out only with a concentration value, but a field is separated based on the average concentration value of said red image obtained with a blue image. Although the concentration value of a blue image changes with the conditions at the time of the image pick-up containing the concentration of for example, the crystalline film, and the illuminance by the exposure means Since a field is separated using the average concentration value of the red image obtained on the same conditions as this blue image, even if the conditions at the time of an image pick-up -- the thickness of the crystalline film changes, for example -- change, the image field of an amorphous film field and the image field of a crystal film field are separable into accuracy. Therefore, field separation is possible, without needing the equipment which acquires the conditions at the time of image pick-ups, such as thickness of the crystalline film.

[0072]

[0073]

Moreover, according to this invention, the exposure means which can irradiate the light which contains a blue component and a red component at least is easily realizable with white lighting.

Moreover, according to this invention, an optical microscope can realize high spatial resolving power, and it becomes possible to inspect the crystalline film in a detail with a desired magnifying power. [0074]

Moreover, according to this invention, in the 1st process, the light which contains a blue component and a red component in the crystalline film which has an amorphous film field and a crystal film field is irradiated, and the crystalline film irradiated at the 1st process is picturized in the 2nd process. In the 3rd process, a blue image is divided into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field with the concentration value based on the average concentration value of the

picturized red image. Therefore, the mixture ratio of an amorphous film field and a crystal film field can be held. And field separation of the blue image is not only carried out only with a concentration value, but a field is separated based on the average concentration value of said red image obtained with a blue image. Although the concentration value of a blue image changes with the conditions at the time of the image pick-up containing the concentration of for example, the crystalline film, and the illuminance by the exposure means Since a field is separated using the average concentration value of the red image obtained on the same conditions as this blue image, even if the conditions at the time of an image pick-up -- the thickness of the crystalline film changes, for example -- change, the image field of an amorphous film field and the image field of a crystal film field are separable into accuracy. Therefore, field separation is possible, without needing the equipment which acquires the conditions at the time of image pick-ups, such as thickness of the crystalline film. $\lceil 0075 \rceil$

Moreover, according to this invention, it becomes possible by making the 2nd process focus about the light of a blue component, and picturizing to divide a blue image into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field clearly and easily with the concentration value. Therefore, it becomes possible to divide the crystalline film into an amorphous film field and a crystal film field clearly.

[0076]

Moreover, according to this invention, after producing the amorphous film, the amorphous film is crystallized selectively, the crystalline film is produced, and the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field obtained by inspection and a crystal film field is compared with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film field set up beforehand and a crystal film field. Based on this comparison result, the conditions for crystallizing the amorphous film selectively can be adjusted. It becomes possible to produce the crystalline film which made the desired ratio the mixture ratio of an amorphous film field and a crystal film field by this.

[0077]

Moreover, according to this invention, after producing the amorphous film, the amorphous film is crystallized selectively, the crystalline film is produced, and an amorphous lump's gauge diameter beforehand determined as the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of the film material obtained by inspection is compared. Based on this comparison result, the conditions for crystallizing the amorphous film selectively

can be adjusted. It becomes possible to produce the crystalline film made under into the overall diameter of a request of the amorphous lump of film material by this.

[0078]

Moreover, according to this invention, by the inspection approach of the crystalline film, after obtaining the binary image which carried out separation detection of an amorphous film field and the crystal film field, expansion processing or contraction processing can be performed to this binary image, and the overall diameter of the amorphous lump of film material can be measured. Therefore, the amorphous lump of non-wanted magnitude can be measured certainly and it becomes possible to detect beforehand the amorphous film field used as causes, such as for example, poor electron mobility and a pixel defect, so.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the mimetic diagram showing the configuration of the test equipment 2 of the crystalline film 1 concerning the operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the perspective view showing selectively the relation of the crystalline film 1 and test equipment 2 which were formed in the substrate 4.

[Drawing 3] It is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4.

[Drawing 4] It is the block diagram of the control system of test equipment 2.

[Drawing 5] It is the explanatory view showing the usage of the picturized image gradually.

[Drawing 6] It is the mimetic diagram of the image field judged to be a defective, and when the ratio of drawing 6 (a) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too low, and the ratio of drawing 6 (b) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too high, drawing 6 (c) is the mimetic diagram of blue image 19R in case the amorphous

(c) is the mimetic diagram of blue image 19B in case the amorphous lump's 31 overall diameter Da is more than a gauge diameter.

[Drawing 7] It is the graph showing the transparency property over the wavelength of the amorphous film and the crystal film.

[Drawing 8] It is the graph showing the spectral characteristic over the wavelength of color CCD camera 11.

[Drawing 9] It is the graph showing the relation of the concentration value of the amorphous film in each color component, and the crystal film.

[Drawing 10] It is the flow chart which shows the process which inspects

the crystalline film 1 obtained according to a solid phase growth crystallization process.

[Drawing 11] It is the flow chart which compares the mixture ratio of the amorphous film obtained by inspection of the crystalline film 1, and the amorphous lump's 31 minor axis Da with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film set up beforehand and the amorphous lump's 31 gauge diameter.

[Drawing 12] It is the block diagram showing the relation between a solid phase growth crystallization process and the inspection process of the crystalline film 1.

[Drawing 13] The amorphous film is an explanatory view explaining the process in which it grows up to be the crystal film.

[Drawing 14] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38.

[Drawing 15] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39A, and coater 38A.

[Drawing 16] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2A, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Crystalline Film
- 2 Test Equipment
- 6 Amorphous Silicon Layer
- 10 Motor for Z-axis Actuation
- 11 Color CCD Camera
- 12 Optical Microscope
- 13 White Lighting
- 14 Control Unit
- 19 RGB Image
- 19B Blue image
- 22 Ram
- 28 Image Board
- 29 Amorphous Film Field
- 30 Crystal Film Field
- 31 Amorphous Lump

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the mimetic diagram showing the configuration of the test equipment 2 of the crystalline film 1 concerning the operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the perspective view showing selectively the relation of the crystalline film 1 and test equipment 2 which were formed in the substrate 4.

[Drawing 3] It is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4.

[Drawing 4] It is the block diagram of the control system of test equipment 2.

[Drawing 5] It is the explanatory view showing the usage of the picturized image gradually.

[Drawing 6] It is the mimetic diagram of the image field judged to be a defective, and when the ratio of drawing 6 (a) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too low, and the ratio of drawing 6 (b) of the image field of the amorphous film field 29 is too high, drawing 6 (c) is the mimetic diagram of blue image 19B in case the amorphous lump's 31 overall diameter Da is more than a gauge diameter.

[Drawing 7] It is the graph showing the transparency property over the wavelength of the amorphous film and the crystal film.

[Drawing 8] It is the graph showing the spectral characteristic over the wavelength of color CCD camera 11.

[Drawing 9] It is the graph showing the relation of the concentration value of the amorphous film in each color component, and the crystal film.

[Drawing 10] It is the flow chart which shows the process which inspects the crystalline film 1 obtained according to a solid phase growth crystallization process.

[Drawing 11] It is the flow chart which compares the mixture ratio of the amorphous film obtained by inspection of the crystalline film 1, and the amorphous lump's 31 minor axis Da with the mixture ratio of the amorphous film set up beforehand and the amorphous lump's 31 gauge diameter.

[Drawing 12] It is the block diagram showing the relation between a solid phase growth crystallization process and the inspection process of the crystalline film 1.

[Drawing 13] The amorphous film is an explanatory view explaining the process in which it grows up to be the crystal film.

[Drawing 14] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38.

[Drawing 15] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2, SPC equipment 39A, and coater 38A.

[Drawing 16] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 2A, SPC equipment 39, and a coater 38.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Crystalline Film
- 2 Test Equipment
- 6 Amorphous Silicon Layer
- 10 Motor for Z-axis Actuation
- 11 Color CCD Camera
- 12 Optical Microscope
- 13 White Lighting
- 14 Control Unit
- 19 RGB Image
- 19B Blue image
- 22 Ram
- 28 Image Board
- 29 Amorphous Film Field
- 30 Crystal Film Field
- 31 Amorphous Lump

[Translation done.]

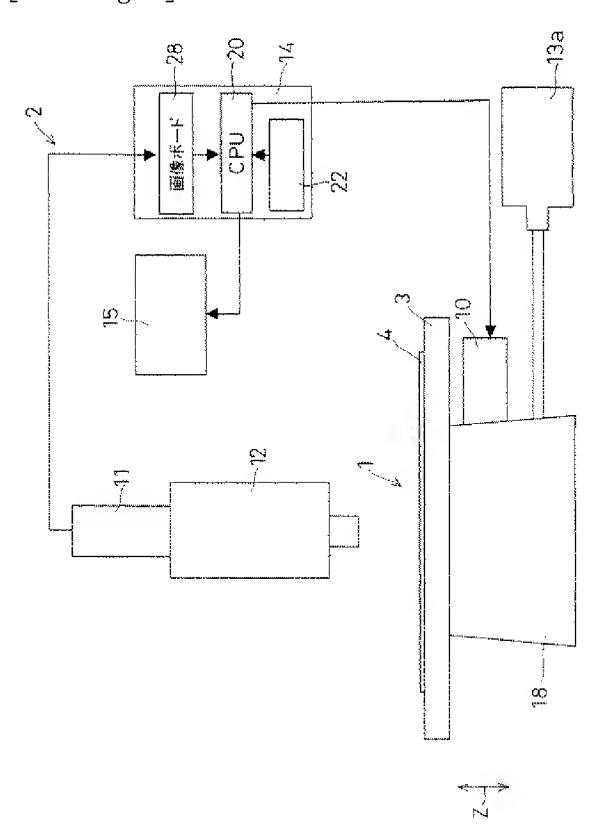
* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

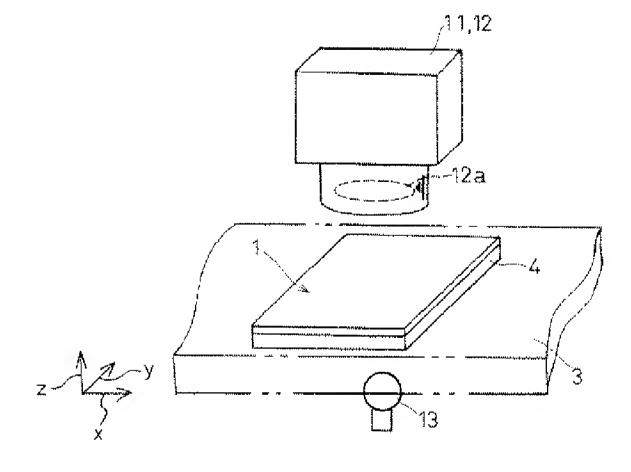
- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

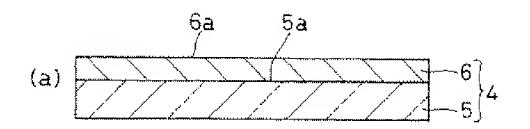
[Drawing 1]

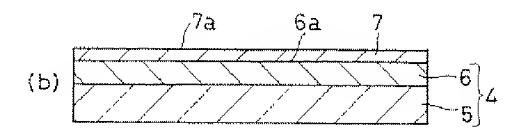


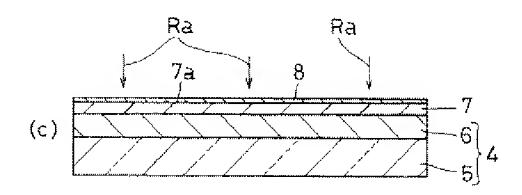
[Drawing 2]



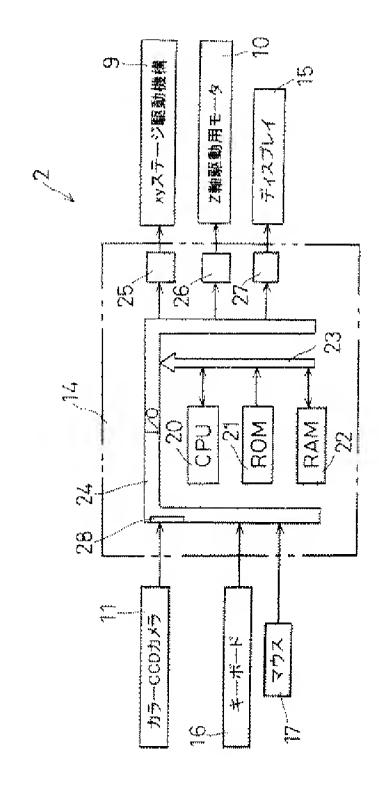
[Drawing 3]



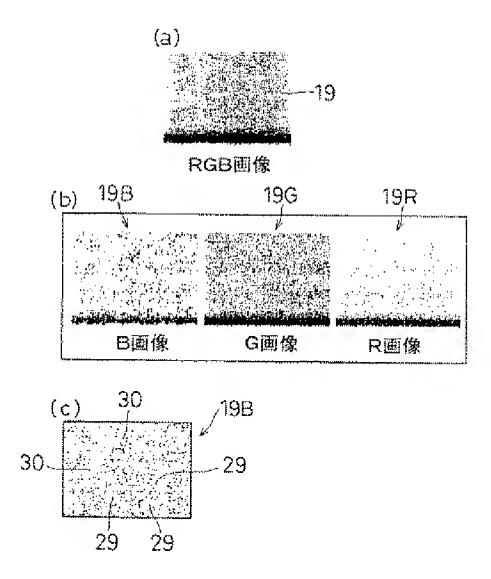




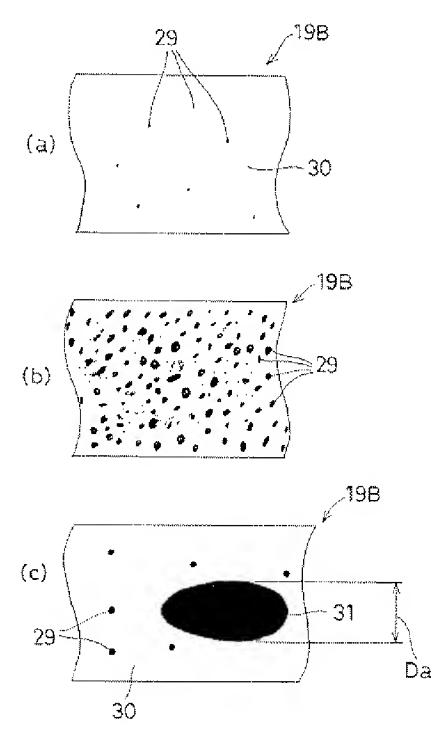
[Drawing 4]



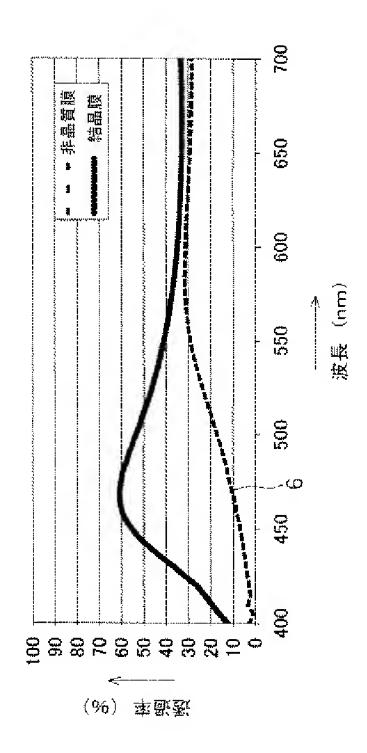
[Drawing 5]



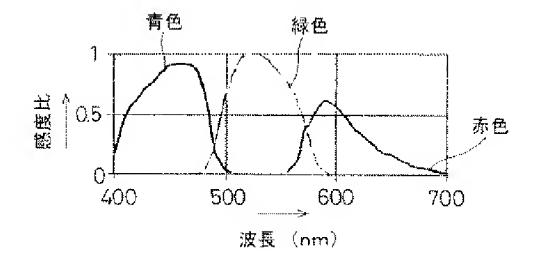
[Drawing 6]



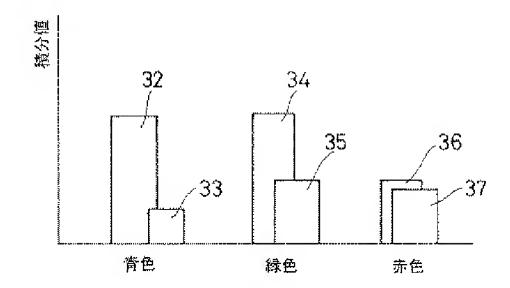
[Drawing 7]



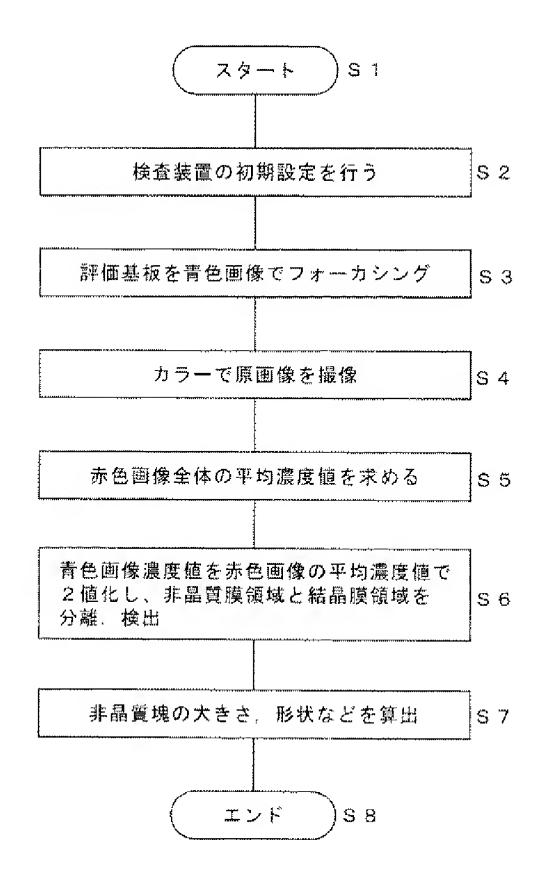
[Drawing 8]



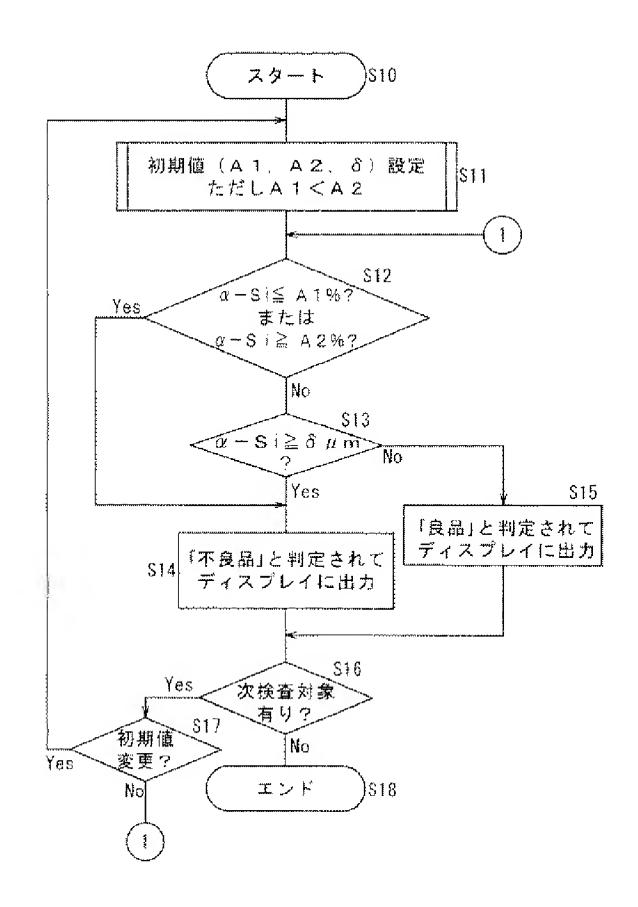
[Drawing 9]



[Drawing 10]



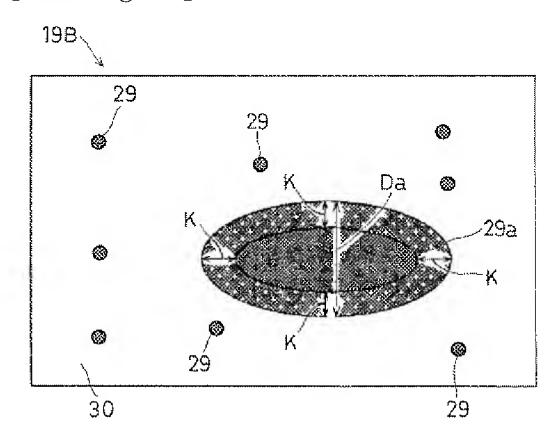
[Drawing 11]



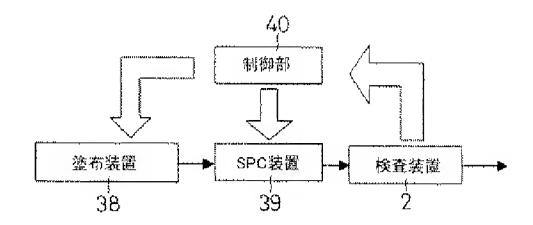
[Drawing 12]



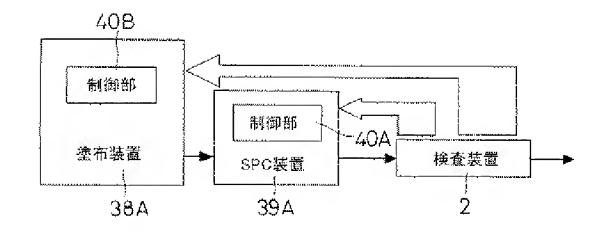
[Drawing 13]



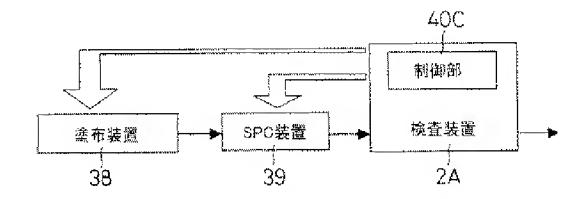
[Drawing 14]



[Drawing 15]



[Drawing 16]



[Translation done.]